



# THE HISTORY OF BRITISH INDIA.

BY JAMES MILL, ESQ.

FIFTH EDITION WITH NOTES AND CONTINUATION

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# HISTORY or BRITISH INDIA.

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## BOOK II.—OF THE HINDUS.

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### CHAPTER VIII.

#### *The Arts.*

WE come now to the arts, necessary or ornamental, known to the Hindus. As the pleasures, to which the arts are subservient, form one of the grounds of preference between the rude and civilised condition of man, the improvement of the arts may be taken as one of the surest indications of the progress of society.

BOOK II.  
CHAP. VIII.

Of the Hindus, it may, first of all, be observed, that they little courted the pleasures derived from the arts, whatever skill they had attained in them. The houses, even of the great, were mean, and almost destitute of furniture; their food was simple and common; and their dress had no distinction (which concerns the present purpose) beyond certain degrees of fineness in the texture.

If we desire to ascertain the arts which man would first practise, in his progress upwards from the lowest barbarism, we must inquire what are the most urgent of his wants. Unless the spontaneous productions of the soil supplied him with food, the means of insnaring, or killing the animals fit for his use by clubs or stones, and afterwards by his bow

"The buildings are all base, of mud, one story high, except in Surat, where there are some of stone. The Emperor's own houses are of stone, handsome and uniform. The great men build not, for want of inheritance; but, as far as I have yet seen, live in tents, or houses worse than our cottages." Sir T. Roe's Letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Churchill, I. 803.

BOOK II. and arrows, would first engage his attention. How to ~~CHAP. VIII.~~ shelter himself from the inclemency of the weather would be his second consideration ; and where cavities of the earth or hollow trees supplied not his wants, the rude construction of a hut would be one of his earliest operations. A covering for his person would probably be the next of the accommodations which his feelings prompt him to provide. At first he contents himself with the skin of an animal ; but it is surprising at how early a period he becomes acquainted with the means of fabricating cloth.<sup>1</sup> Weaving, therefore, and architecture, are among the first of the complicated arts which are practised among barbarians ; and experience proves that they may be carried, at a very early period of society, to a high state of perfection. It has been remarked, too, that one of the earliest propensities which springs up in the breast of a savage is a love of ornament, of glittering trinkets, of bits of shining metals, or coloured stones, with which to decorate his person. The art, accordingly, of fetching out the brilliancy of the precious stones and metals, and fashioning them into ornaments for the person ; the art, in fine, of jewellery, appears at an early period in the progress of a rude people.

These three, architecture, weaving, and jewellery, are the only arts for which the Hindus have been celebrated ; and even these, with the exception of weaving, remained in a low state of improvement.

In a few places in Hindustan are found the remains of ancient buildings, which have attracted the attention of Europeans ; and have, where there existed a predisposition to wonder and admire, been regarded as proofs of a high civilization. "The entry," says Dr. Robertson, "to the Pagoda of Chillambrum, is by a stately gate under a pyramid 122 feet in height, built with large stones above forty feet long, and more than five feet square, and all covered with plates of copper, adorned with an immense variety of figures neatly executed. The whole structure extends 1332 feet in one direction, and 936 in another. Some of the ornamental

<sup>1</sup> It is curious to observe how Plato traces this progress. He is endeavouring to account for the origin of society. Ιθ. δη (ην δέγω) τῷ λόγῳ εξ αρχῆς ποιῶντες πλεῖν ποιησει δάυτην, ὡς εοικει ἡ ἡμετέρα χρεία. Πιὼς δ'ον ; Άλλα μεν πρώτη γε και μεγιστη των χρεων, ἡ της τροφῆς παρασκευή, δευτέρα δη οἰκησεως, τρίτη εσθῆτος και των τοιουτων. Εστι ταυτα' φέρε δη (ην δέγω) πως ἡ πολις αρκεσει επι τοσαντην παρασκευην ; αλλοτι, γεωργος μεν, εις, ὁ δε οικοδομος· αλλος δε τις ὑφαντης. Plat. de Cœrib. lib. II. p. 599.

parts are finished with an elegance entitled to the admiration of the most ingenious artists."<sup>1</sup> The only article of precise information which we obtain from this passage is the great size of the building. As for the vague terms of general eulogy bestowed upon the ornaments, they are almost entirely without significance—the loose and exaggerated expressions, at second-hand, of the surprise of the early travellers at meeting with an object, which they were not prepared to expect. Another structure still more remarkable than that of Chillambrum, the Pagoda of Seringham, situated in an island of the river Cavery, is thus described by Mr. Orme. "It is composed of seven square enclosures, one within the other, the walls of which are twenty-five feet high, and four thick. These enclosures are 350 feet distant from one another, and each has four large gates with a high tower; which are placed, one in the middle of each side of the enclosure, and opposite to the four cardinal points. The outward wall is near four miles in circumference, and its gateway to the south is ornamented with pillars, several of which are single stones thirty-three long, and nearly five in diameter; and those which form the roof are still larger; in the inmost enclosures are the chapels."<sup>2</sup> In this nothing is described as worthy of regard except the magnitude of the dimensions.

The cave of Elephanta, not far from Bombay, is another work which, from its magnitude, has given birth to the supposition of high civilisation among the Hindus. It is a cavity in the side of a mountain, about half-way between its base and summit, of the space of nearly 120 feet square. Pieces of the rock, as is usual in mining, have been left at certain distances supporting the superincumbent matter; and the sight of the whole upon the entrance, is grand and striking. It had been applied at an early period to religious purposes, when the pillars were probably fashioned into the sort of regular form they now present, and the figures, with which great part of the inside is covered, were sculptured on the stone.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Robertson's *Hist. Disquis.* concerning India, p. 225.

<sup>2</sup> Orme's *Hist. of Milt.* Transac. of Indostan, i. 178.

<sup>3</sup> The cave of Elephanta is not the only subterranean temple of the Hindus, exhibiting on a large scale the effects of human labour. In the Isle of Salsette, in the same vicinity, is a pagoda of a similar kind, and but little inferior to it in any remarkable circumstance. The pagodas of Ellora, about eighteen miles from Aurungabad, are not of the size of those of Elephanta and Salsette, but

BOOK II. Antecedently to the dawn of taste, it is by magnitude alone that, in building, nations can exhibit magnificence, and it is almost uniformly in honour of the gods, that this species of grandeur is first attempted. Experience alone could have made us comprehend, at how low a stage in the progress of the arts, surprising structures can be erected. The Mexicans were even ignorant of iron. They were unacquainted with the use of scaffolds and cranes. They had no beasts of burden. They were without sledges and carts. They were under the necessity of breaking their

they surprise by their number, and by the idea of the labour which they cost. See a minute description of them by Anquetil Duperron, Zendavesta, Disc. Prelim. p. cxxxiii. The seven pagodas, as they are called at Mavalipuram, near Sadras, on the Coromandel coast, is another work of the same description; and several others might be mentioned. Dr. Tennant, who has risen higher above travellers' prejudices in regard to the Hindus, than most of his countrymen, says, "Their caves in Elephanta and Salsette are standing monuments of the original gloomy state of their superstition, and the imperfection of their arts, particularly that of architecture." Indian Recreations, i. 6. The extraordinary cavern, the temple of Pusa, near Chas-chou-fou, in China, which was visited by Lord Macartney, and full of living priests, vies in wonderful circumstances with the cave of Elephanta. See Barrow's Life of Lord Macartney, Journal, ii. 374. "However these gigantic statues, and others of similar form, in the caves of Ellora and Salsette may astonish a common observer, the man of taste looks in vain for proportion of form, and expression of countenance." Forbes' Oriental Memoirs, i. 423. "I must not omit the striking resemblance between these excavations (Elephanta, &c.) and the sculptured grottoes in Egypt," &c. "I have often been struck with the idea that there may be some affinity between the *written mountains* in Arabia, and the excavated mountains in Hindustan." Ibid. i. 442, 449. It is difficult to say how much of the wonderful in these excavations may be the mere work of nature: "Left Sallo, and travelled through a country beautiful beyond imagination, with all possible diversities of rock; sometimes towering up like ruined castles, spires, pyramids, &c. We passed one place so like a ruined Gothic abbey, that we halted a little, before we could satisfy ourselves that the niches, windows, ruined staircase, &c. were all natural rock. A faithful description of this place would certainly be deemed a fiction." Mungo Park's last Mission to Africa, p. 75. "Between the city of Canton, and first pagoda, on the bank of the river, is a series," says Mr. Barrow, "of stone-quarries, which appear not to have been worked for many years. The regular and formal manner in which the stones have been cut away, exhibiting lengthened streets of houses with quadrangular chambers, in the sides of which are square holes at equal distances, as if intended for the reception of beams; the smoothness and perfect perpendicularity of the sides, and the number of detached pillars that are scattered over the plain, would justify a similar mistake to that of Mr. Addison's doctor of one of the German universities, whom he found at Château d'Un in France, carefully measuring the free-stone quarries at that place, which he conceived to be the venerable remains of vast palaces of great antiquity." Barrow's Travels in China, p. 599. The conclusions of many of our countrymen in Hindustan will bear comparison with that of the German doctor in France. It is not a bad idea of Forster, the German commentator upon the travels of P. Paolino, that forming caverns into temples must naturally have been the practice when men as yet had their principal abodes in caverns. Voyage aux Indes Orient. par le P. Paolino, iii. 116. Volney says, "those labyrinths, temples, and pyramids, by their huge and heavy structure, attest much less the genius of a nation, opulent and friendly to the arts, than the servitude of a people, who were slaves to the caprice of their monarch." Travels in Egypt, &c. i. 232

stones with flints, and polished them by rubbing one against another. Yet they accomplished works, which, in magnitude and symmetry, vie with any thing of which Hindustan has to boast. "The great temple," says Clavigero, "occupied the centre of the city. Within the enclosure of the wall, which encompassed it in a square form, the conqueror Cortez affirms that a town of 500 houses might have stood. The wall, built of stone and lime, was very thick, eight feet high, crowned with battlements in the form of niches, and ornamented with many stone figures in the shape of serpents. It had four gates to the four cardinal points. Over each of the four gates was an arsenal, filled with a vast quantity of offensive and defensive weapons, where the troops went, when it was necessary, to be supplied with arms. The space within the walls was curiously paved with such smooth and polished stones that the horses of the Spaniards could not move upon them without slipping and tumbling down. In the middle was raised an immense solid building of greater length than breadth, covered with square equal pieces of pavement. The building consisted of five bodies, nearly equal in height, but different in length and breadth; the highest being narrowest. The first body, or basis of the building, was more than fifty perches long from east to west, and about forty-three in breadth from north to south. The second body was about a perch less in length and breadth than the first; and the rest in proportion. The stairs, which were upon the south side, were made of large well-formed stones, and consisted of 114 steps, each a foot high. Upon the fifth body (the top) was a plain, which we shall call the upper area, which was about forty-three perches long, and thirty-four broad, and was as well paved as the great area below. At the eastern extremity of this plain were raised two towers, to the height of fifty-six feet. These were properly the sanctuaries, where, upon an altar of stone, five feet high, were placed the tutelary idols."<sup>1</sup> The Tlascalans, as a rampart against the Mexican troops, erected a wall, "six miles in length, between two mountains; eight feet in height, besides the breast-work, and eighteen feet in thickness."<sup>2</sup>

Garcilasso de la Vega informs us that "the Incas, who

<sup>1</sup> Clavigero, Hist. of Mexico, book vi. sect. 10.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. book vii. sect. 26.

BOOK II.  
CHAP. VIII.

~~BOOK II.~~ were kings of Peru, erected many wonderful and stately edi-  
~~CHAP. VIII.~~ fices: their castles, temples, and royal palaces," says he,  
 "their gardens, store-houses, and other fabrics, were buildings  
 of great magnificence, as is apparent by the ruins of them.  
 The work of greatest ostentation, and which evidences most  
 the power and majesty of the Incas, was the fortress of Cozco,  
 whose greatness is incredible to any who have not seen it,  
 and such as have viewed it with great attention cannot but  
 admire it, and believe that such a work was raised by en-  
 chantment, or the help of spirits, being that which surpasses  
 the art and power of man. For the stones are so many and  
 so great which are laid in the three first rounds, being rather  
 rocks than stones, as passes all understanding, how, and in  
 what manner, they were hewn from the quarry or brought  
 from thence, for they had no instruments of iron or steel where-  
 with to cut or fashion them: nor less wonderful is it to think,  
 how they could be carried to the building; for they had neither  
 carts nor oxen to draw them with; and if they had, the weight  
 was so vast as no cart could bear, or oxen draw; then to think  
 that they drew them with great ropes, over hills and dales, and  
 difficult ways, by the mere force of men's arms, is alike in-  
 credible; for many of them were brought ten, twelve, or  
 fifteen leagues off. But to proceed further in our imagina-  
 tion of this matter, and consider how it was possible for the  
 people to fit and join such vast machines of stones together,  
 and cement them so close, that the point of a knife can  
 scarce pass between them, is a thing above all admiration;  
 and some of them are so artificially joined, that the crevices  
 are scarce discernible between them. Then to consider that  
 to square and fit these stones one to the other, they were  
 to be raised and lifted up and removed often, until they  
 were brought to their just size and proportion; but how  
 this was done by men who had no use of the rule and the  
 square, nor knew how to make cranes or pulleys, and cramps  
 and other engines, to raise and lower them as they had occa-  
 sion, is beyond imagination."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Royal Commentaries of Peru, by the Inca Garcilasso de la Vega, book vii. ch. xxviii. Acosta likewise says (see his Natural and Moral History of the Indies, book vi. ch. xiv), that of these stones he measured one, at Tlagnaco, which was thirty-eight feet long, eighteen broad, and six in thickness; and that the stones in that building were not so large as those in the fortress of Cuzco. He adds, " And that which is most strange, these stones, being not cut, nor squared to join, but contrariwise, very unequal one with another in form and greatness, yet did they join them together without cement, after an

Whatever allowance any preconceptions of the reader may lead him to make for exaggeration, which we may believe to be considerable, in the above descriptions, enough undoubtedly appears to prove, that no high attainments, in civilisation and the arts, are implied in the accomplishment of very arduous and surprising works in architecture; and it will be allowed that such comparisons between the attainments of different nations, are the only means of forming a precise judgment of the indications of civilisation which they present. The Gothic cathedrals reared in modern Europe, which remain among the most stupendous monuments of architecture in that quarter of the globe, were constructed, many of them, at least, at comparatively a very low stage of civilisation and science. To allude to Nineveh and Babylon, is to bring to the recollection of the historical reader, the celebrated works of architecture, in temples, walls, palaces, bridges, which distinguished those ancient cities. Yet it is demonstrated, that no high degree of improvement was attained by the people that erected them. The pyramids of Egypt, vast as their dimensions, and surprising their durability, afford intrinsic evidence of the rudeness of the period at which they were reared.<sup>1</sup> According to Strabo, the sepulchre of Belus, at Babylon, was a pyramid of one stadium in height. It appears to have been built of different bodies, or stages, one rising above another, exactly in the manner of the great temple at Mexico. A tower, says Herodotus, a stadium both in length and breadth, is reared at the base; and upon this is erected another tower, and

incredible manner." Acosta tells us, however (Ibid.), that they were entirely unacquainted with the construction of arches. Humboldt, who could have no national partialities on the subject, is almost as lofty in his praises of the realms of the ancient architecture of the Mexicans and Peruvians. "Au Mexique et au Pérou," says he, *Tableaux de la Nature*, 1. 168, "on trouve partout dans les plaines élevées des montagnes, des traces d'une grande civilisation. Nous avons vu, à une hauteur de seize à dix-huit cent toises, des ruines de palais et de temples." The ruins which he saw of a palace of immense size, are mentioned at p. 158.

<sup>1</sup> "Let us now speak," says the President Goguet, *Origin of Laws*, part III. book II. ch. I. "of the bridge of Babylon, which the ancients have placed in the number of the most marvellous works of the East. It was near 100 fathoms in length, and almost four in breadth, &c. .... While we do justice to the skill of the Babylonians, in conducting these works, we cannot help remarking the bad taste, which, at all times, reigned in the works of the eastern nations. The bridge of Babylon furnishes a striking instance of it. This edifice was absolutely without grace, or any air of majesty. .... Finally, this bridge was not arched." The first chiefs in Iceland built no inconsiderable houses. Ingulph's palace was 136 feet in length. Mallet, *Introd. Hist. Denmark*, vol. I. ch. xiii.

BOOK II. again another upon that, to the number of eight towers  
char. viii. in all.<sup>1</sup>

Somnerat informs us, "that the architecture of the Hindus is very rude; and their structures in honour of their deities are venerable only from their magnitude": "Mailcotay," says Dr. Buchanan, "is one of the most celebrated places of Hindu worship, both as having been honoured with the actual presence of an avatara, or incarnation of Vishnu, who founded one of the temples; and also as being one of the principal seats of the Sri Vaishnavam Brahmany, and having possessed very large revenues. The large temple is a square building of great dimensions, and entirely surrounded by a colonnade; but it is a mean piece of architecture, at least outwardly. The columns are very rude, and only about six feet high. Above the entablature, in place of a balustrade, is a clumsy mass of brick and plaster, much higher than the columns, and excavated with numerous niches, in which are huddled together many thousand images, composed of the same materials, and most rudely formed. The temple itself is alleged to be of wonderful antiquity, and to have been not only built by a god, but to be dedicated to Krishna, on the very spot where that avatara performed some of his great works."<sup>2</sup> Of the celebrated pagodas at Congeveram, the same author remarks, that "they are great stone buildings, very clumsily executed, both in their joinings and carvings, and totally devoid of elegance or grandeur, although they are wonderfully crowded with what are meant as ornaments."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Herodot. Clio. 181. Major Rennel, who was obliged to trust to Mr. Beloe's translation, was puzzled with the expression, "a tower of the solid depth and height of one stadium;" Justly pronounces it incredible, and says, "Surely Herodotus wrote *breadth* and *length*, and not breadth and height." (Geog. of Herodot. pp. 359, 360), which is precisely the fact, the words of Herodotus being καὶ τὸ πρόπος καὶ τὸ ἐπός. The word *στάδιον*, too, here translated *solid*, as if the tower was a mere mass of brick-work, without any internal vacuity, by no means implies a fact so very improbable. *Στάδιον* means *strong, firmly built, &c.* This resemblance has been noticed by Humboldt (Ecccl Polit. sur la Nouv. Espagne,) p. 170, also that between the pyramids of Egypt, and the vast pyramids of which the remains are to be found in Mexico, p. 187. The palace of Montezuma bore a striking resemblance to that of the Emperor of China, p. 190.

<sup>2</sup> Voyage Sonnerat, liv. iii. ch. viii.

<sup>3</sup> Buchanan's Journey through Mysore, &c. ii. 70.

<sup>4</sup> Id. Ibid. i. 13. Sir James Mackintosh ingeniously remarks, that among the innumerable figures of men and monsters of all sorts exhibited at Ellora, you perceive about one in ten thousand that has some faint rudiments of grace, those lucky hits, the offspring of chance, rather than design, which afford copies to a rude people, and enable them to make gradual improvements.

Wonderful monuments of the architecture of rude nations BOOK II.  
 are almost everywhere to be found. Mr. Bryant, speaking CHAP. VIII.  
 of the first rude inhabitants of Sicily, the *Cyclopes*, who  
 were also called Lestrygons and Lamii, says, "They erected  
 many temples, and likewise high towers upon the sea-coast;  
 and founded many cities. The ruins of some of them are  
 still extant; and have been taken notice of by Fazellus, who  
 speaks of them as exhibiting a most magnificent appearance.  
 They consist of stones which are of great size. Fazellus,  
 speaking of the bay, near Segesta, and of an hill which  
 overlooked the bay, mentions wonderful ruins upon its  
 summit, and gives an ample description of their extent and  
 appearance."<sup>1</sup> The old traveller, Knox, after describing the  
 passion of the Ceylonese for constructing temples and mo-  
 numents of enormous magnitude, in honour of their gods,  
 drily adds, "As if they had been born solely to hew rocks  
 and great stones, and lay them up in heaps;"<sup>2</sup> the unsophis-  
 ticated decision of a sound understanding, on operations  
 which the affectation of taste, and antiquarian credulity, have  
 magnified into proofs of the highest civilisation.<sup>3</sup>

"Rude nations," (says Dr. Ferguson, Hist. of the Roman Republic, f. 18, ed. 6vo.) "sometimes execute works of great magnificence for the purposes of superstition or war; but seldom works of mere convenience or cleanliness." Yet the common sewers of Rome, the most magnificent that ever were constructed, are assigned to the age of the elder Tarquin. Polybius tells us, that the city of Ecbatana, in Media, which contained one of the palaces of the Persian Kings, far excelled all other cities in the world, *πλούτῳ καὶ τῇ τε κατασκευῇ τολμαῖς μεγάλῃ τοι τοῦτο τὸ οὖτε λόγος διατρέχειν πολεῖ.* With regard to the palace itself, he was afraid, he said, to describe its magnitude and magnificence, lest he should not be believed. It was seven stadia in circumference; and though all the wood employed in it was cedar or cypress, every part of it, pillars, cornices, beams, every thing was covered with plates of silver or gold, so that no where was a bit of wood visible; and it was roofed with silver tiles. Polyb. Hist. lib. x. 24.

<sup>1</sup> Bryant's Ancient Mythology, book v. p. 311. From p. 187 to 213, an ample and instructive collection will be found of instances to prove the passion of rude nations for erecting great buildings; and the degree of perfection in art which their works display. Priam's palace, according to Homer, was a magnificent building. That remarkable structure, the labyrinth of Crete, was produced at a very early age. Mr. Ward assures us, "that of the Hindoo temples none appear to be distinguished for the elegance of their architecture: They are not the work of a people sunk in barbarism, neither will they bear any comparison with the temples of the Greeks and Romans." He adds, "We learn from the Ain Akbari, however, that the entire revenues of Orissa, for twelve years, were expended in erecting a temple to the sun." Introd. p. ix.

BOOK II. again another upon <sup>the</sup> very and important part of architecture,  
 CHAP. VIII. in all, entirely ignorant. They knew not the  
 construction of arches, till they first learned it from their  
 Moslem conquerors. In the description of the superb temple  
 at Seringham, we have already seen<sup>1</sup> that no better expedient  
 was known than great flat stones for the roof. "On the south  
 branch of the river Cavery, at Seringapatam," says Dr. Bu-  
 chanan, "a bridge has been erected, which serves also as an  
 aqueduct, to convey from the upper part of the river a large  
 canal of water into the town and island. The rudeness of  
 this bridge will show the small progress that the arts have  
 made in Mysore. Square pillars of granite are cut from the  
 rock, of a sufficient height to rise above the water at the  
 highest floods. These are placed upright in rows, as long  
 as the intended width of the bridge, and distant about ten  
 feet from each other. They are secured at the bottom by  
 being let into the solid rock, and their tops being cut to a  
 level, a long stone is laid upon each row. Above these lon-  
 gitudinal stones, others are placed contiguous to each other,  
 and stretching from row to row, in the direction of the  
 length of the bridge."<sup>2</sup> The celebrated bridge over the  
 Euphrates, at Babylon, was constructed on similar princi-

pyramids had dropped from the clouds, or sprung out of the soil. "Mr. Bryant offers strong reasons to prove, that the pyramids in Egypt were, in a great measure, the work of nature, not of art." 4to. Ed. N. 335. It is quite as likely that the caves, as that the pyramids, were the work of nature—not of art, agreeably to Mr. Bryant's "strong reasons." Magnitude is not the only element of beauty in the cavern-temples. The columns are carved with great elegance and fitness of design, and many of the figures are graceful and expressive. No notice is taken of the numerous remains of temples, in various parts of India, in which extreme architectural beauty is to be found. And it may be doubted if those observers whom he has cited, have done justice to the edifices of which they speak so disparagingly. What is more to the purpose, however, is, that the Hindus did not "heap up stones" without a reason. They had reduced architecture to a science; and although they depart, in the variety, and sometimes grotesqueness of their details, from the stately simplicity of Grecian art, yet, their rules of proportion are very much the same. Ignorance of the arch, which is presently objected to them, is common to them and the Greeks. See Itám Ráz, on Hindu Architecture. Sykes on the Caves of Ellora. Trans. R. As. Soc. Grindlay's Architecture of Western India. Daniell's Engravings of the Caves of Ellora. J. Prinsep's Sketches of Benares, and a variety of pictorial works, which afford ocular demonstration, even to untravelled observers, of our author's injustice to Indian architecture.—W.

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 3. "Their knowledge of mechanical powers," says Mr. Orme, "is so very confined, that we are left to admire, without being able to account for, the manner in which they have erected their capital pagodas. It does not appear that they had ever made a bridge of arches over any of their rivers, before the Mahomedans came amongst them." History of Ill. Trans. of Indostan, i. 7.

<sup>2</sup> Buchanan's Journey through Mysore, &c. i. 61.

ples, and the president Goguet remarks "that the Babylonians were not the only people who were ignorant of the art of turning an arch. This secret," he adds, "as far as I can find, was unknown to all the people of remote antiquity."<sup>1</sup> Though the ancient inhabitants, however, of Persia, were ignorant of this useful and ingenious art, the modern Persians are admirably skilled in it; the roofs of the houses are almost all vaulted; and the builders are peculiarly dexterous in constructing them.<sup>2</sup>

Of the exquisite degree of perfection to which the Hindus have carried the productions of the loom, it would be idle to offer any description; as there are few objects with which the inhabitants of Europe are better acquainted. Whatever may have been the attainments, in this art, of other nations of antiquity, the Egyptians, for example, whose fine linen was so eminently prized, the manufacture of no modern nation can, in delicacy and fineness, vie with the textures of Hindustan. It is observed at the same time, by intelligent travellers, that this is the only art which the original inhabitants of that country have carried to any considerable degree of perfection.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Goguet, *Origin of Laws*, part iii book ii. ch. i. He says, "it even appears to me demonstrated, that the Egyptians had not much more knowledge of architecture, of sculpture, and of the fine arts in general, than the Peruvians and the Mexicans. For example, neither the one nor the other knew the secret of building vaults. What remains of foundry or sculpture, is equally clumsy and incorrect. I think this observation absolutely essential." *Origin of Laws*, part iii. dissent. iii. Clavigero, however, asserts that the Mexicans did know the art of constructing arches and vaults, as appears, he says, from their baths, from the remains of the royal palaces of Texcoco, and other buildings, and also from several paintings. *Hist. Mex.* book vii. sec. 53

<sup>2</sup> Chardin, *Voy. en Perse*. II. 16. ed. 4to. Amsterdam 1755. "On est frappé [à l'apartheid] de l'éclatante architecture des persans; l'Europe n'en connaît rien qui leur soit comparé; pour le couvrant des cases de pierre, pour la facilité de leur passage, pour les formes sans trouée, le tout de la racine de la roche et de ses entrailles, ou, à peu près, de la fraîcheur de l'eau." Chardin, *Voyage*, &c. t. 1. 9. "La sculpture est aussi en Perse . . . Mais l'architecture, je ne crois pas plus élégante, moins étendue que celle des Turcs, est toutefois plus élevée et élégante. Les portails et les dômes sont d'une recherche, d'un fini, d'un style, d'une richesse que je connais . . . . . Les Persans ont poussé fort loin l'art de faire les rues . . . . Les rues de leurs villes sont vaste, leur planches le sont aussi." Ibid. p. 224, 229. The skill in architecture of the Turks, a very rude race, is well known. "Perhaps I am in the wrong, but since Turkish architecture is inferior to that of the Greeks and Sophia.—That of Venice Sicily is the work of all the masters of art; the most judicious, and I think the best of ancient structures I ever saw. Between friends, Sir Paul's Chapel would make a grand figure near it." Letter of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. *Letters* p. 142, 257.

<sup>3</sup> "No art in Hindostan is carried to the same degree of perfection as in Europe, except some articles in which the inhabitants of a country take an advantage, as in the case of the cottons of Bengal." *Journal of General Brecremon*, i. 104. The people here are a sort of slaves to us, Dr. Chisholm informs us, "in every part of Bengal where we have been introduced by foreigners; the only one that has been brought to such a perfection in weaving." Journey through Hindostan. Ed. 2. 54.

**BOOK II.** To the skill of the Hindus, in this art, several causes  
**CHAP. VIII.** contributed. It is one of the first to which the necessities  
 of man conduct him:<sup>1</sup> it is one of those which experience proves to arrive early at high perfection; and it is an art to which the circumstances of the Hindu were in a singular manner adapted. His climate and soil conspired to furnish him with the most exquisite material for his art, the finest cotton which the earth produces. It is a sedentary occupation, and thus in harmony with his predominant inclination. It requires patience, of which he has an inexhaustible fund; it requires little bodily exertion, of which he is always exceedingly sparing; and the finer the production, the more slender the force which he is called upon to apply. But this is not all. The weak and delicate frame of the Hindu is accompanied with an acuteness of external sense, particularly of touch, which is altogether unrivalled, and the flexibility of his fingers is equally remarkable. The hand of the Hindu, therefore, constitutes an organ, adapted to the finer operations of the loom, in a degree which is almost, or altogether, peculiar to himself.<sup>2</sup>

Yet the Hindus possessed not this single art in so great a degree of perfection, compared with rude nations, as, even on that ground, to lay a foundation for very high pretensions. "In Mexico," says Clavigero, "manufacturers of various kinds of cloth were common everywhere; it was one of those arts which almost every person learned. Of cotton, they made large webs, and as delicate and fine as those of Holland, which were with much reason highly es-

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Park tells us that the arts of spinning, weaving, and dyeing cotton, are familiar to the Africans. *Travels*, p. 17.

<sup>2</sup> "A people," says Mr. Orme, "born under a sun too sultry to admit the exercise and fatigues necessary to form a robust nation, will naturally, from the weakness of their bodies (especially if they have few wants), endeavour to obtain their scanty livelihood by the easiest labour. It is from hence, perhaps, that the manufactures of cloth are so multiplied in Indostan. Spinning and weaving are the slightest tasks which a man can be set to, and the numbers that do nothing else in this country are exceeding." He adds: "The hand of an Indian cook-wench shall be more delicate than that of an European beauty; the skin and features of a porter shall be softer than those of a professed *petit maître*. The women wind off the raw silk from the pod of the worm. A single pod of raw silk is divided into twenty different degrees of fineness; and so exquisite is the feeling of these women, that whilst the thread is running through their fingers so swiftly, that their eye can be of no assistance, they will break it off exactly as the assortments change, at once from the first to the twentieth, from the nineteenth to the second. The women likewise spin the thread designed for the cloths, and then deliver it up to the men, who have fingers to model it up exquisitely as these have prepared it." Orme, on the Gov. and People of Indostan, p. 409 to 413.

teemed in Europe. A few years after the conquest, a sacerdotal habit of the Mexicans was brought to Rome, which, as Boturini affirms, was uncommonly admired on account of its fineness. They wove these cloths with different figures and colours, representing different animals and flowers."<sup>1</sup> When the Goths first broke into the Roman empire, they possessed fringed carpets and linen garments of so fine a quality, as greatly surprised the Greeks and Romans, and have been thought worthy of minute description by Eunapius and Zosimus.<sup>2</sup> "Pliny, speaking of a carpet for covering such beds as the ancients made use of at table, says, that this piece of furniture, which was produced from the looms of Babylon, amounted to eighty-one thousand sestertia."<sup>3</sup> This proves the fineness to which that species of manufacture was then wrought, and the excellence which the Babylonians, who yet could not construct an

<sup>1</sup> Clavigero, Hist. of Mexico, book vii. sect. 57.

<sup>2</sup> See Gibbon (Hist. of the Decl. and Fall of the Rom. Emp. iv. 364), who says, "Yet it must be presumed, that they (the carpets and garments) were the manufactures of the provinces; which the barbarians had acquired as the spoils of war, or as the gifts or merchandise of peace." But had they been the manufactures of the provinces, the Romans must have known them familiarly for what they were; and could never have been so much surprised with their own manufactures, transferred by plunder, gift, or sale to the barbarians (of none of which operations, had they existed, could they have been altogether ignorant), as to make their historians think it necessary to place a minute description of them in their works.

<sup>3</sup> Goguet, Origin of Laws, part iii. book vi. ch. I. art. 2. That diligent and judicious writer says, "Of all the arts of which we have to speak in this second part, there are none which appear to have been more or better cultivated than those which concern clothing. We see taste and magnificence shine equally in the description Moses gives of the habits of the high priest and the veils of the tabernacle. The tissue of all these works was of linen, goat's hair, wool, and byssus. The richest colours, gold, embroidery, and precious stones, united to embellish it." Ibid. part ii. book II ch. II. The following lofty description of the tissues of Babylon, by Dr. Gillies (see the description of Babylon, in his History of the World), is not surpassed by the most strained panegyrics upon the weaving of the Hindus. "During the latter part of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, and the twenty-six years that intervened between his death and the conquest of his capital by Cyrus, Babylon appears not only to have been the seat of an imperial court, and station for a vast garrison, but the staple of the greatest commerce that perhaps was ever carried on by one city. Its precious manufactures under its hereditary sacerdotal government reinvented, as we have seen, to immemorial antiquity. The Babylonians continued thenceforward to be clothed with the produce of their own industry. Their bodies were covered with fine linen, descending to their feet; their mitres or turbans were also of linen, plaited with much art; they wore woollen tunics, above which a short white cloak repelled the rays of the sun. Their houses were solid, lofty, and separated, from a regard to health and safety, at due distances from each other: within them the floors glowed with double and triple carpets of the brightest colours; and the walls were adorned with those beautiful tresses called Sindones, whose fine yet firm texture was employed as the fittest clothing for eastern kings. The looms of Babylon, and of the neighbouring Borsippa, a town owing its prosperity to manufactures only, supplied to all countries round the finest veils or hangings, and every article of dress or furniture composed of cotton, of linen, or of wool."

BOOK II. arch, had attained in the art. The Asiatic nations seem CHAP. VIII. to have excelled, from the earliest ages, in the manufactures of the loom. It is by Pliny recorded, as the opinion of his age and nation, that of the art of weaving cotton, Semiramis is to be revered as the inventress. The city Arachne, celebrated by the Greeks and Romans, as the place where weaving was first invented, and where it was carried to the highest perfection, is represented by Mr. Bryant as the same with Erech or Barsippa, and situated on the Euphrates, in the territory of Babylon.<sup>1</sup> One of the accomplishments of the goddess of wisdom herself (so early was the date), was her unrivalled excellence in the art of weaving; and Arachne, according to the poets, was a virgin, who, daring to vie with Minerva in her favourite art, was changed into a spider for her presumption.<sup>2</sup>

That ingenuity is in its infancy among the Hindus, is shown by the rudeness still observable in the instruments of this their favourite art. The Hindu loom, with all its appurtenances, is coarse and ill-fashioned, to a degree, hardly less surprising than the fineness of the commodity which it is the instrument of producing. It consists of little else than a few sticks or pieces of wood, nearly in the state in which nature produced them, connected together by the rudest contrivances. There is not so much as an expedient for rolling up the warp. It is stretched

<sup>1</sup> Bryant's Ancient Mythology, ill. 425. It was from this city the spider (Arachne), for its curious web, was said to have derived its name. The poet Nonnus thus celebrates its manufactures :

Καὶ πορε ποικίλα πεπλα, τα περ' παρα Τιγρίδος ὑδωρ  
Νηματι λεπταλεφ τεχνησατο Περσις Αραχνη.

Again :

Νηρευς μεν ταῦτα δώρα πολυτροπά· δώκε δε καιρη  
Περσικος Ευφρητης πολυδιδαλον ειματ' Αραχνη.

Nonnus, lib. xviii. p. 326, Edit. 1569; et lib. xlvi. p. 747. See the brilliant description which Chardin gives of the exquisite skill of the modern Persians in the art of weaving; of the extraordinary beauty and value of their gold velvets. They make not fine cottons, he says, only for this reason, that they can import them cheaper from India. Chardin, Voyages en Perse, ill. 119. Olivier says: "Il est excellent dans la fabrication des étoffes de soie pure, de soie et coton, de soie et or ou argent, de coton pur, de coton et laine. A Térid, à Cachan, à Ispahan, on travaille, avec tantôt de goût que de propriété les brocards, les velours, les taffetas, les satins, et presque toutes les étoffes que nous connaissons." Olivier, Voyage, etc. v. 304, 305, 306.

<sup>2</sup> Ovid. We learn from Plato, that, when any fine production of the loom among the Greeks was represented as of the most exquisite fineness and beauty, it was compared to those of the Persians : την διανη του χιτωνισκου ειναι με σιαται οι Περσικαι των πολυτελων. Hippias Min. 255.

out at the full length of the web; which makes the house BOOK II.  
of the weaver insufficient to contain him. He is therefore CHAP. VIII.  
obliged to work continually in the open air; and every re-  
turn of inclement weather interrupts him.<sup>1</sup>

Among the arts of the Hindus, that of printing and dyeing their cloths has been celebrated; and the beauty and brilliancy, as well as durability, of the colours they produce, are worthy of particular praise. This has never been supposed to be one of the circumstances on which any certain inference with regard to civilization could be founded. It has been generally allowed that a great, if not the greatest part of the excellence which appears in the colours of the Hindu cloths, is owing to the superior quality of the colouring matters, with which their happy climate and soil supply them.<sup>2</sup> Add to this that dyeing is an early art. "It must have made," says Goguet, "a very rapid progress in the earliest times in some countries. Moses speaks of stuffs dyed sky-blue, purple, and double-scarlet; he also speaks of the skins of sheep dyed orange and violet."<sup>3</sup> The purple, so highly admired by the ancients, they represented as the invention of Hercules, thus tracing back its origin even to the fabulous times. In durability, it appears not that any thing could surpass the colours of the ancients. "We never," says Goguet, "find them complain that the colour of their stuffs was subject to alter or change. Plutarch tells us, in the life of Alexander, that the conqueror found, among the treasures of the kings of Persia, a prodigious quantity of purple stuffs, which, for one hundred and eighty years which they had been kept, preserved all their lustre, and all their primitive freshness. We find in Herodotus, that certain people, on the borders of the Caspian Sea, imprinted on

<sup>1</sup> Orme, on the Governments and people of Indostan, p. 402, etc. Tenant's Indian Recreations, p. 301. "The apparatus of the weaver is very simple; two rollers, placed in four pieces of wood, fixed in the earth; two sticks, which traverse the warp, and are supported at each of the extremities, one by two strings tied to the tree under which the loom is placed, and the other by two other strings tied to the workman's feet, which gives him a facility of removing the threads of the warp to throw the woof." Sonnerat, Voyag. liv. iii. ch. viii.

<sup>2</sup> "Perhaps their painted cloths are more indebted to the brilliancy of the colours, and the goodness of the water, than any skill of the artist, for that admiration with which they have been viewed." Tenant's Indian Recreations, i. 299. Chardin, who tells us how admirable the Persians are in the art of dyeing, adds, that their excellence in this respect, is principally owing to the excellency of their colouring matters. Voyages en Perse, iii. 16.

<sup>3</sup> Goguet, Origin of Laws, part ii. book ii. ch. ii. art. 1.

BOOK II. their stuffs designs, either of animals or flowers, whose  
CHAP. VIII. colour never changed, and lasted as long even as the wool  
of which their clothes were made."<sup>1</sup>

We shall next consider the progress of the Hindus in agriculture, which, though the most important of all the useful arts, is not the first invented, nor the first which arrives at perfection. It is allowed, on all hands, that the agriculture of Hindustan is rude; but the progress of agriculture depends so much upon the laws relating to landed property, that the state of this art may continue very low, in a country where other arts are carried to a high degree of perfection.

A Hindu field, in the highest state of cultivation, is described to be only so far changed by the plough, as to afford a scanty supply of mould for covering the seed; while the useless and hurtful vegetation is so far from being eradicated, that, where burning precedes not, which for a short time smoothes the surface, the grasses and shrubs, which have bid defiance to the plough, cover a large proportion of the surface.

Nothing can exceed the rudeness and inefficiency of the Hindu implements of agriculture. The plough consists of a few pieces of wood, put together with less adaptation

<sup>1</sup> Gognet, *Origin of Laws*, part II. book II. ch. II. art. I. "The linen manufactured by the Colelians was in high repute. Some of it was curiously painted with figures of animals and flowers, and afterwards dyed like the linen of the Indians. And Herodotus tells us, that the whole was so deeply tinctured, that no washing could efface the colours. They accordingly exported it to various marts, as it was everywhere greatly sought after." Bryant's *Anc. Mythol.* v. 109. Herodotus, however, represents the people of whom he speaks, as in a state of great barbarity: μετὰ τοῦτων των αἰσθατῶν εὐαίσθια καταρρέονται προσβατοῖς. Clio, cclii. The Chinese dye scarlet more exquisitely than any other nation. Lord Macartney says "It arises "from their indefatigable care and pains in washing, purifying, and grinding their colouring matter." See Lord Macartney's Journal, Barrow's *Life of Lord Macartney*, II. 516. The same expenditure of time and patience, commodities generally abounding in a rude state of society, are the true causes of both the fine dyeing and the fine weaving of the Hindus. Both Hindus and Chinese are indebted for all elegance of pattern to their European visitors.—"Pour ce qui est des arts mécaniques, celui où les Persans excellent le plus, et où ils nous surpassent peut-être, c'est la teinture. Ils donnent à leurs étoffes des couleurs plus vives, plus solides qu'on ne fait en Europe. Ils impriment celles de coton et celles de soie avec une netteté et une tenacité surprenantes, soit qu'ils emploient des couleurs, soit qu'ils procèdent avec des feuilles d'or et d'argent." Ollivier, *Voyage, etc.* v. 303. Mr. Park informs us, that the negroes of Africa have carried the art of dyeing to great perfection. *Travels in Africa*, p. 231: see also his last Mission, p. 10. The arts in which the Hindus have any pretensions to skill are the very arts in which so rude a people as the Turks most excel. "Presque tous les arts sont dans l'enfance, ou sont ignorés chez eux, si nous en exceptons la teinture, la fabrication de diverses étoffes, celle des lames de sabre et de couteau." *Voyages dans l'Empire Ottoman, etc., par G. A. Ollivier*, L. 26.

to the end in view, than has been elsewhere found among some of the rudest nations. It has no contrivance for turning over the mould; and the share, having neither width nor depth, is incapable of stirring the soil. The operation of ploughing is described by the expressive term *scratching*.<sup>1</sup> Several ploughs follow one another, all to deepen the same furrow; a second ploughing of the same sort is performed across the first; and very often a third and a fourth, in different directions, before so much as an appearance of mould is obtained for the seed.<sup>2</sup>

The instrument employed as a harrow is described as literally a branch of a tree; in some places as a log of wood, performing the office partly of a roller, partly of a harrow; and in others as a thing resembling a ladder of eighteen feet in length, drawn by four bullocks, and guided by two men, who stand upon the instrument to increase its weight.<sup>3</sup> The hackery, which answers the purpose of cart or waggon, is a vehicle with two wheels, which are not three feet in diameter, and are not unfrequently solid pieces of wood, with only a hole in the middle for the axle-tree. The body of the machine is composed of two bamboos meeting together at an angle between the necks of the two bullocks, by which the vehicle is drawn, and united by a few crossing bars of the same useful material. It is supported at the angle by a bar which passes over the necks of the two animals, and cruelly pulls them. To lessen the friction between the wheel and axis, and save either his wretched cattle, or his own ears, the simple expedient of greasing his wheels, never suggested itself to the mind of a ryot of Hindustan.<sup>4</sup> Even this wretched vehicle can

<sup>1</sup> What is meant by this? If it is intended, as may be supposed, to express the sense of the native term for ploughing, it is incorrect; and, as it appears to rest upon Mr. Tennant's authority, it is an additional proof of his ignorance.—W.

<sup>2</sup> "You frequently see a field, after one ploughing, appear as green as before; only a few scratches are perceptible, here and there, more resembling the digging of a mole than the work of a plough." Tennant's Indian Reer. II. 75.—M.

No allowance is made either here or in the text for the peculiarities of the soil or climate; the deep ploughing of England is not needed in a soil in which seeds take root upon the surface, and the appearance of vegetation is scarcely to be prevented by any care; the assertion of the text, that repeated ploughings are necessary before an appearance of mould is obtained, seems to be a notion of his own, and shows strange unacquaintance with the peculiarities of the country, at least, of Bengal, where the whole soil is alluvial mould.—W.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 124, 275.

<sup>4</sup> Tennant's Ind. Reer. II. 75. "You cannot, by any argument, prevail upon

BOOK II. seldom be employed for the purposes of husbandry, for CHAP. VIII. almost total want of roads. It is in back loads that the carriage of almost all the commodities of the country is performed; and in many places the manure is conveyed to the fields in baskets on the backs of the women.<sup>1</sup>

Everything which savours of ingenuity, even the most natural results of common observation and good sense, are foreign to the agriculture of the Hindus. The advantages arising from the observation of the fittest season for sowing are almost entirely neglected. No attention was ever paid in Hindustan to the varieties of the grains; so as to select the best seed, or that fittest for particular situations. For restoring fruitfulness to a field that is exhausted, no other expedient is known, than suspending its cultivation; when the weeds, with which it is always plentifully stored, usurp undivided dominion. Any such refinement as a fallow, or a rotation of crops, is far beyond the reach of a Hindu. The most irrational practice that ever found existence in the agriculture of any nation, is general in India, that of sowing various species of seeds, mustard, flax, barley, wheat, millet, maize, and many others, which ripen at different intervals, all indiscriminately on the same spot. As soon as the earliest of the crops is mature, the reapers are sent into the field, who pick out the stalks of the plant which is ripe, and tread down the rest with their feet. This operation is repeated as each part of the product arrives at maturity, till the whole is separated from the ground.<sup>2</sup>

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the listless owner to save his ears, his cattle, or his cart, by lubricating it with oil. Neither his industry, his invention, nor his purse, would admit of this, even though you could remove what is generally insurmountable—his veneration for ancient usage. If his forefathers drove a screeching hackney, posterity will not dare to violate the sanctity of custom by departing from their example. This is one instance of a thousand in which the inveterate prejudices of the Asiatics stand in the way of their improvement, and bid defiance equally to the exertions of the active, and the hopes of the benevolent." Ibid. 76. This characteristic mark of a rudo people, a blind opposition to innovation, is displayed by persons among ourselves, as if it was the highest mark of wisdom and virtue.—The waggon wheels are one piece of solid timber, like a millstone. Tavernier, in Harris, i. 815.

<sup>1</sup> Into Oude are imported a variety of articles of commerce from the northern mountains, gold, copper, lead, musk, cow-tails, honey, pomegranate seeds, grapes, dried ginger, pepper, red-wood, tincar, civet, zedoary, wax, woollen cloths, wooden ware, and various species of hawks, amber, rock-salt, assafetida, glass toys. What is carried back is earthenware. All this commerce is carried upon the backs of men, or horses and goats. Ayeen Akbery, ii. 33. Buchanan's Journey, i. 205, 434. Capt. Hardwicke, Asiatic Res. vi. 330.

<sup>2</sup> That there is much slovenliness in Indian agriculture, may be admitted;

Though, during the dry season, there is an almost total failure of vegetables for the support of cattle; of which every year many are lost by famine, and the remainder reduced to the most deplorable state of emaciation and weakness; none but the most imperfect means were ever imagined by the Hindu of saving part of the produce of the prolific season, to supply the wants of the barren one. Hay is a commodity which it would not always be convenient to make; but various kinds of pulse and millet might be produced at all seasons, and would afford the most important relief to the cattle when the pasture-grounds are bare. The horses themselves are often preserved alive by the grooms picking up the roots of grass with a knife from the ditches and tanks.<sup>1</sup>

but much that is here charged against it, is untrue. Hindu cultivators are by no means deficient in common observation and good sense, and are regulated in their proceedings by a knowledge of their soil and climate; in which the heavy implements and laborious culture of Europe, would be wholly out of place. To say that the Indian farmer is ignorant of the fittest season for sowing, is the contradiction of known facts; as nothing can be more regular than the periodical recurrence of the harvests. Nor is the Indian farmer unacquainted with the advantage of a rotation of crops; although, in general, the soil does not require it:—where, as in the case of sugar-cane, the produce exhausts the soil, we have Dr. Roxburgh's evidence, that the Indians "do not attempt to rear a second crop sooner than every third or fourth year; allowing the land either to rest, or employing it for the growth of such plants as are found to improve the soil; of which the Indian farmer is a perfect judge." As. Annual Reg. 1802. Tracts, p. 8. Few persons had better opportunities of estimating the character of Indian agriculture than Sir Thomas Munro, and he calls it "a good system."—Evidence, 1813.—W.

<sup>1</sup> For this sketch of Hindu agriculture, the chief authorities are, a short treatise, entitled "Remarks on the Agriculture, &c. of Bengal;" Tennant's Indian Recreations, particularly the second volume; and Dr. Buchanan's Journey through Mysore, Canara, and Malabar. After describing the wretched state of agriculture in the neighbourhood of Seringapatam, Dr. Buchanan says; "I am afraid, however, that the reader, in perusing the foregoing accounts, will have formed an opinion of the native agriculture still more favourable than it deserves. I have been obliged to use the English words ploughings, weedings, and hoeings, to express operations somewhat similar, that are performed by the natives; and the frequent repetition of these, mentioned in the accounts taken from the cultivators, might induce the reader to imagine that the ground was well wrought, and kept remarkably clean. Quite the reverse, however, is the truth. Owing to the extreme imperfection of their implements, and want of strength in their cattle, a field, after six or eight ploughings, has numerous small bushes remaining as upright in it as before the labour, while the plough has not penetrated above three inches deep, and has turned over no part of the soil..... The plough has neither coulter nor mould-board, to divide and to turn over the soil; and the handle gives the ploughman very little power to command its direction. The other instruments are equally imperfect, and are more rudely formed than it was possible for my draughtsman to represent." Buchanan's Journey through Mysore, &c. i. 126. In another place he says, "In every field there is more grass than corn. Notwithstanding the many ploughings, the fields are full of grass roots." Ibid. p. 345. See also p. 15. Agriculture was almost universal among the American tribes. "Throughout all America, we scarcely meet with any nation of hunters, which does not practise some species of cultivation." Robertson's America, ii. 117. "The agriculture of the Peruvians was apparently superior to that of the Hindus." Ibid. iii. 341.

**BOOK II.** The only circumstance to captivate the fancy of those Europeans, who were on the look-out for subjects of praise, CHAP. VIII. was the contrivance for irrigation. Reservoirs or excavations, known in India by the name of tanks, were so contrived as to collect a largo body of water in the rainy season, whence it was drawn off in the season of drought for the refreshment of the fields. These tanks appear to have been at all times a principal concern of the government; and when it is considered that almost the whole revenue of the sovereign depended in each year upon the produce of the soil, and that the decay of the tanks ensured the decay of revenue, it is no wonder that of such care and wisdom as the government anywhere displayed, a large portion should appear to have been bestowed upon the tanks. In certain places much care and labour have been employed. But those authors were strangely mistaken who looked upon this as a proof of refined agriculture and great civilization. It is only in a small number of instances, where the whole power of an extensive government, and that almost always Mahomedan,<sup>1</sup> had been applied to the works of irrigation, that they are found on a considerable scale, or in any but the rudest state. In a country in which, without artificial watering, the crops would always be lost, the ingenuity of sinking a hole in the ground, to reserve a supply of water, need not be considered as great.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The most considerable works of this class, are in the South and West of India, where the Mohammedan rule was either not known at all, or not until a very recent date.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Frezier (see his *Voyage to the South Sea*, p. 213 London edition, 1718), says, "The ancient Indians were extraordinary industrious in conveying the water of the rivers to their dwellings: there are still to be seen in many places aqueducts of earth and of dry stones, carried on and turned off very ingeniously along the sides of hills, with an infinite number of windings, which shows that those people, as unpolished as they were, very well understood the art of levelling." There is something indicative of no little art in the floating gardens and fields which were on the lake of Mexico. (See the Description in Clavigero, Hist. Mex. book vii. sect. 27.) The cultivation of their fields, considering it was done by human, without the aid of animal labour, was remarkable, and their produce surprising. (*Ibid. sect. 28.*) The following passage from Garcilasso de la Vega deserves to be quoted as a monument of the labours of the Peruvians in agriculture. "They tilled all wet moors and fens, for in that art they were excellent, as is apparent by their works which remain unto this day: and also they were very ingenious in making aqueducts for carrying water into dry and scorched lands." (He explains how careful they were to water both their corn-lands and pasture). . . . . "After they had made a provision of water, the next thing was to dress, and cultivate, and clear their fields of bushes and trees; and, that they might with most advantage receive the water, they made them in a quadrangular form; those lands which were good on the side of hills, they levelled by certain alleys or walks which they



## HISTORY OF BRITISH INDIA.

BOOK II. suggests ideas of considerable magnificence.<sup>1</sup> CHAP. VIII. informs us, that the ancient Mexicans "set gems in gold and silver, and made most curious jewellery of great value." In short," says that author, "these sort of works were so admirably finished, that even the Spanish soldiers, all stung as they were with the same wretched thirst for gold, valued the workmanship above the materials."<sup>2</sup>

When Europeans have compared the extreme imperfection, the scantiness and rudeness of the tools by which the Hindu artist performs his task, with the neatness, and in some cases the celerity of the execution, they have frequently drawn an inference, the very reverse of that which the circumstances implied. This sort of faculty is no mark of high civilization. A dexterity in the use of its own imperfect tools is a common attribute of a rude society.

Acosta, speaking of some remarkable instances of this species of talent in the natives of Mexico and Peru, says,

<sup>1</sup> Exod. ch. xxviii. "I look upon engraving on fine stones," says Gognet, (*Origin of Laws*, part ii. book ii. ch. ii. art. 3) "as the most remarkable evidence of the rapid progress of the arts in some countries. This work supposes a number of discoveries, much knowledge, and much experience." He adds, in a note, "It must be agreed, that the ancient Peruvians, whose monarchy had not subsisted above three hundred and fifty years, understood perfectly well the working of precious stones." (*Hist. Gén. des Voyages*, xlii. 578.) Ibid.

<sup>2</sup> Clavigero, *Hist. of Mexico*, book vii. sect. 51. Even the most rude of the American tribes seem not to have been without some knowledge of the art of working the precious stones. M. de la Condumine, speaking of the green stones, found in some places bordering on the Amazon's River, in South America, says (*Voyage dans l'Intérieur de l'Amérique Méridionale*, p. 131), "La critique est qu'elles ne diffèrent, ni en couleur, ni en dureté, du Jade Oriental; elles résistent à la lime, et on n'imagine pas quel artifice les anciens Américains ont pu les tailler, et leur donner diverses figures d'animaux, sans fer ni acier."—In the same place, he mentions another phenomenon of the ancient Americans. "Ce sont," says he, "des Émeraudes, arrondies, polies, et percées de deux trous coniques, diamétralement opposés sur un axe commun, telles qu'on en trouve encore aujourd'hui au Pérou sur les bords de la Rivière de St. Jago dans la province d'Esmeraldas, à quarante lieues de Quito, avec divers autres monumens de l'industrie des anciens habitans." Chardin, *Voy. en Perse*, III. 115.—Olivier present day are eminent lapidaries. Chardin, *Voy. en Perse*, III. 115.—Olivier says, "Ils taillent assez bien les pierres précieuses, et les montent avec assez de goût." Olivier, *Voy. &c.* v. 304, &c. "At this place I had an opportunity of seeing their mode of smelting gold. Isaac had purchased some gold in coming through Konkodoo, and here he had it made into a large ring. The smith made a crucible of common red clay, and dried it in the sun. Into this he put the gold without flux or mixture whatever. He then put charcoal under it and over it; and, blowing the fire with the common bellows of the country, soon produced such a heat as to bring the gold into a state of fusion. He then made a small furrow in the ground, into which he poured the melted gold. When it was cold he took it up, and heating it again soon hammered it into a square bar. Then heating it again, and twisting it by means of two pair of pincers into a sort of screw, and, lengthening out the ends, turned them up, so as to form a massive and precious ring." Mungo Park's *Last Mission to Africa*, p. 78.

"Herby we may judge, if they have any understanding, BOOK II.  
or be brutish; for my part, I think they pass us in those CHAP. VIII.  
things wherunto they apply themselves." <sup>1</sup> Mr. Forster —  
himself, who "admiration was excited by the dexterity of  
the Hindu," affords an instance in the rude person of a  
Russian peasant, which might have suggested to him an  
appropriate conclusion. "At the distance," says he, "of  
a few miles from Choperskoy, the driver of the carriage  
alarmed me by a report of the hinder axle being shat-  
tered; an accident which gave me an opportunity of ob-  
serving the dexterity of a Russian carpenter in the use of  
the axe. Without the help of any other tool, except a  
narrow chisel, to cut a space in the centre of it for re-  
ceiving an iron bar which supports the axle, and to pierce  
holes for the linchpins, he reduced, in two hours, a piece  
of gross timber to the requisite form, and his charge was  
one shilling."<sup>2</sup>

But while dexterity in the use of imperfect tools is not a  
proof of civilization; a great want of ingenuity and com-  
pleteness in instruments and machinery is a strong indica-  
tion of the reverse; nor would it be easy to point out any

<sup>1</sup> *Antes, No. 81.* — *Hab. of the Indies, book VI, chap. viii.*

<sup>2</sup> *Forster's Travels, II. 222.* — *Les Indes sont à la disposition d'une grande  
et assez belle industrie, et de l'art d'être inventeur et merveilleux.  
Savoir faire faire des choses aussi rares et étranges que celles de l'Indien,  
c'est une chose à惊叹的 (Amazement). Robertson, de l'Hist. de l'Am., 1. 224 — "In general,  
the Indians of America (the Indians) were, in considering the tools they  
possess, not very well as. Their tools, chisels, cutting implements, canoes, houses,  
etc. do not great skill. Their working, however, their war-heads and  
their plates, etc. are not bad at all. The arrangement of the different parts,  
the exact symmetry, the mete of the joints, are a miracle; and it is as-  
tonishing how they can, with such ease and quickness, drill holes in a perfectly  
smooth and flat rock, so as not to scratch the point of a common  
pin." This, says *Vernon*, p. 221. One can see the same remarkable coincidence  
in precision, rudeness of tools, and neatness of execution, in the following  
descriptions of the state of the arts in Mexico. "The functions  
of the man, in the weaver, the goldsmith, the painter, and of several other  
arts, were carried on by different persons. Each was regularly instructed  
in his calling. To it alone his industry was confined; and, by assiduous ap-  
plication to one object, together with the persevering patience peculiar to  
Americans, their artisans attained to a degree of neatness and perfection in  
work, far beyond what could have been expected from the rude tools which  
they employed. Their various productions were brought into commerce;  
and, by the exchange of them in the stated markets held in the cities, not  
only were their mutual wants supplied, in such orderly intercourse as characterizes an improved state of society, but their industry was daily rendered  
persevering and inventive." *Robertson's Hist. of America*, lit. 280. Voltaire  
has a passage on this subject which shows philosophical discernment. "Il y a  
dans l'homme un instinct de méchanique que nous voyons produire tous les  
jours de très grands effets, dans des hommes fort grossiers. On voit des ma-  
chines inventées par les habitans des montagnes du Tirol et des Vosges, qui  
étonnent les savans." *Voltaire, Livre sur les Mœurs et l'Esprit des Nations,*  
*Introd.* p. 32.*

BOOK II. single circumstance which may be taken as a better index  
 CHAP. VIII. of the degree in which the benefits of civilisation are  
 anywhere enjoyed, than the state of the tools and machinery  
 of the artists. All European visitors have been vehemently  
 struck with the rudeness of the tools and machinery used by  
 the people of Hindustan.<sup>1</sup> Sonnerat, one of those travellers  
 who have surveyed the state of the arts in that country with  
 the greatest attention and the most enlightened eyes, informs  
 us, that with his hands and two or three tools, the Hindu  
 artisan has to perform that kind of task about which with  
 us a hundred tools would be employed.<sup>2</sup> "When the rude-  
 ness of the tools," says Mr. Forster, "with the simplicity of  
 the process, is examined, the degree of delicacy which the  
 artisans have acquired in their several professions must  
 challenge a high admiration."<sup>3</sup> Fryer, speaking of the  
 mode in which coral is cut, says, "The tools of the workman  
 were more to be wondered at than his art; his hands and  
 feet being all the vice, and the other tools unshapen bits of  
 iron."<sup>4</sup>

In the mode in which the Hindu artisans, of almost all descriptions, perform their work, is observed a circumstance, generally found among a rude people, and nowhere else. The carpenter, the blacksmith, the brazier, even the goldsmith and jeweller, not to speak of others, produce not their manufacture as in a refined state of the arts, in houses and workshops of their own, where the accommodations requisite for them can best be combined: they repair for each job, with their little budget of tools, to the house of the

<sup>1</sup> Crawford's Sketches, p. 328, 1st ed.

<sup>2</sup> Sonnerat, Voy. Iiv. iii. chap. viii. "The Indian carpenter knows no other tools than the plane, the chisel, the gimble, a hammer, and a kind of hatchet. The earth serves him for a bench, and his foot for a holdfast. He is a month in performing what our workmen will do in three days. Even after instruction he will not adopt our method of sawing. Placing his wood between two beams fixed in the ground, and sitting on a bench, a man employs three days, with one saw, to make a plank, which would cost our people an hour's work." Ibid. Among the Birmans the state of the more necessary and useful arts seems to be fully as much advanced as among the Hindus: in not a few cases more so. (See Mr. Symes' Embassy to Ava.) The waggonas are more neat and commodious than the clumsy gauries or carts of India.

<sup>3</sup> Forster's Travels, i. 25. "Their artificers," says Stavorinus, "work with so little apparatus, and so few instruments, that an European would be astonished at their neatness and expedition." Stavorinus, Voy. p. 412. See, to the same purpose, Tennant, Indian Recreations, i. 301, 302, 303.

<sup>4</sup> Fryer's Travels, let. iii. chap. iii. They cut diamonds, he says, with a mill turned by men, the string reaching, in manner of our cutlers' wheels, to lesser that are in a flat press, where under steel wheels diamonds are fastened, and with its own bort are worn into what cut the artist pleases. Ibid.

man who employs them, and there perform the service for which they are called.<sup>1</sup>

BOOK II.  
CHAP. VIII.

With regard to the fine arts, a short sketch will suffice. Hardly by any panegyrist is it pretended that the sculpture, the painting, the music of the Hindus are in a state beyond that in which they appear in early stages of society. The merely mechanical part, that for which the principal requisites are time and patience, the natural produce of rude ages, when labour is of little value, is often executed with great neatness; and surprises by the idea of the difficulty overcome. In the province of genius and taste, nothing but indications of rudeness appear. The productions are not merely void of attraction: they are unnatural, offensive, and not unfrequently disgusting. "The Hindus of this day," says Mr. Forster, "have a slender knowledge of the rules of proportion, and none of perspective. They are just imitators, and correct workmen, but they possess merely the glimmerings of genius."<sup>2</sup> "The style and taste of the Indians," says Paolino, "are indeed extremely wretched; but they possess a wonderful aptitude for imitating the arts and inventions of the Europeans, as soon as the method has been pointed out to them."<sup>3</sup> Major Rennel himself informs us, that the imitative or fine arts were not carried to the height even of the Egyptians, much less of the Greeks and Romans, by the Hindus: that like the Chinese they made great progress in some of the useful arts, but scarcely any in those of taste.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The blacksmith goes from place to place carrying his tools with him. Beside his forge and his little furnace, a stone serves for an anvil, and his whole apparatus consists of a pair of pincers, a hammer, a mallet, and a file. They have not attained the art of polishing gold and silver, or of working gold in different colours. The goldsmith goes about with his tools, like the blacksmith. Sonnerat, Voy. Ily. iii. chap. viii. The workmen in gold and silver are frequently only little boys, who sit every day in the bazaar or market waiting till they are called, when they go to your house, with their implements in a little basket, consisting of a very small anvil, a hammer, a pair of bellows, a few files, and a pair of pincers: a chafing-dish, or pan of embers, is then given to him with a model of what is to be made, and the material. He then sets about his work in the open air, and performs it with despatch and ingenuity. Other tradesmen go to your home in the same manner, the shoemaker and tailor. Stavorinus, Voy. p. 412. It is remarkable how exactly this description of the state of the arts among the Hindus tallies with that among the Persians; Chardin informs us that every where in Persia, the artisans of all descriptions go to work in the houses of those who employ them—that they perform their work with the poorest apparatus, and, comparing the tools with the work, to a surprising degree of perfection. Chardin, Voy. en Perse, iii. 98.

<sup>2</sup> Forster's Travels, i. 80.

<sup>3</sup> Bartolomeo's Travels, book i. chap. vil.

<sup>4</sup> Rennel's Memoir, p. xxii.

**BOOK II.** "In India," says Sonnerat, "as well as among all the people CHAP. VIII. of the East, the arts have made little or no progress. All ————— the statues we see in their temples are badly designed and worse executed."<sup>1</sup> We have the testimony of Mr. Hodges, which to this point at least is a high testimony, that the sculpturo in the pagodas of Hindustan is all very rude.<sup>2</sup> In the description of a temple of Siva, at Hullybedu in Mysore, Dr. Buchanan says, "Its walls contain a very ample delineation of Hindu mythology; which, in the representation of human or animal forms, is as destitute of elegance as usual; but some of the foliages possess great neatness. It much exceeds any Hindu building that I have seen elsewhere."<sup>3</sup>

Whatever exaggeration we may suppose in the accounts which the historians of Mexico and Peru have given us of the works of sculpture in the new world, the description of them will not permit us to conclude that they were many degrees inferior to the productions of Hindustan. Clavigero says, "The Mexicans were more successful in sculpture than in painting. They learned to express in their statues all the attitudes and postures of which the human body is capable; they observed the proportions exactly; and could, when necessary, execute the most delicate and minute strokes with the chisel. The works which they executed by casting of metals were in still more esteem. The miracles they produced of this kind would not be credible, if, besides the testimony of those who saw them, curiosities in numbers, of this nature, had not been sent from Mexico to Europe."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sonnerat, Voy. lly. iii. ch. viii.—M. That this condemnation is too unqualified we have satisfactory testimony in some of the sculptures at Ellora, of which drawings are given by Captain Grindlay in the Trans. Royal Asiatic Society, vol. ii. 326.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Hodges' Travels in India. Mr. Hodges says, "I am concerned I cannot pay so high a compliment to the art of sculpture among the Hindoos as is usually paid by many ingenious authors who write on the religion of Bramah. Considering these works, as I do, with the eyes of an artist, they are only to be paralleled with the rude essays of the ingenious Indians I have met with in Otaheite, and on other islands in the South Seas :" p. 26. He adds in the next page, that in point of carving, that is, the mere mechanical part, the ornaments in the Hindu temples are often beautiful. In another passage, too, p. 161, he speaks again of the same mechanical nicety, the peculiar sharpness of the cut in Hindu carvings. See, to the same purpose, Tenuant's Indian Recr. i. 299.

<sup>3</sup> Buchanan, Journey through Mysore, &c. iii. 391.

<sup>4</sup> Clavigero, Hist. Mex. book vii. sect. 50. He adds, "The works of gold and silver sent in presents from the conqueror Cortez to Charles V. filled the goldsmiths of Europe with astonishment, who, as several authors of that period

The progress was similar, as we might presume, in the BOOK II. sister art of painting. The Hindus copy with great exactness, even from nature. By consequence, they draw portraits, both of individuals and of groups, with a minute likeness; but peculiarly devoid of grace and expression. Their inability to exhibit the simplest creations of the fancy, is strongly expressed by Dr. Tennant, who says, "The laborious exactness with which they imitate every feather of a bird, or the smallest fibre on the leaf of a plant, renders them valuable assistants in drawing specimens of natural history; but further than this, they cannot advance one step. If your bird is to be placed on a rock, or upon the branch of a tree, the draughtsman is at a stand; the object is not before him; and his imagination can supply nothing."<sup>1</sup> In one remarkable circumstance their painting resembles that of all other nations who have made but small progress in the arts. They are entirely without a knowledge of perspective, and by consequence, of all those finer and nobler parts of the art of painting, which have perspective for their requisite basis.<sup>2</sup>

attest, declared that they were altogether inimitable. The Mexican founders made, both of gold and silver, the most perfect images of natural bodies. They made a fish in this manner, which had its scales, alternately, the one of silver and the other of gold, a parrot with a moveable head, tongue, and wings, and an ape with a moveable head and feet, having a spindle in its hand in the attitude of spinning." *Ibid.* Garcilasso tells us, "that the Peruvians framed many figures of men and women, of birds of the air, and fishes of the sea; likewise of fierce animals, such as tigers, lions and bears, foxes, dogs, cats; in short, all creatures whatsoever known amongst them, they cast and moulded into true and natural figures of the same shape and form of those creatures which they represented. They counterfeited the plants and wall-flowers so well, that being on the walls they seemed to be natural; the creatures which were shaped on the walls, such as lizards, butterflies, snakes, and serpents, some crawling up and some down, were so artificially done, that they seemed natural, and wanted nothing but motion." Book vi. chap. i.)

<sup>1</sup> Tennant's Ind. Rec. i. 299.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Tennant, at the place cited above, supports his own authority, by quoting the following passage of Sonnerat: "La peinture chez les Indiens est, et sera toujours, dans l'ensoufle; ils trouvent admirable un tableau chargé de rouge et de bleu, et dont les personnages sont vêtus d'or. Ils n'entendent point le clair-obscur, n'arrondissent jamais les objets, et ne savent pas les mettre en perspective; on un mot, leurs meilleures peintures ne sont que de mauvaises enluminures." (*Voyages aux Indes*, i. 99.) The Indian pictures, says Mandelslo, are more remarkable for their diversity of colours, than any exactness of proportion. Harris's Collect. of Voy. i. How exactly does this correspond with the description which Chardin gives us of the state of the same art among the Persians! "En Perse les arts, tant libéraux que mécaniques, sont en général presque tous rudes et bruts, en comparaison de la perfection où l'Europe les a portés..... Ils entendent fort mal le dessin, ne sachant rien faire au naturel; et ils n'ont aucune connoissance de la perspective..... Pour ce que de la palette-peinture, il est vrai que les visages qu'ils représentent

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BOOK II. CHAR. VIII.

It is anomalous and somewhat surprising that the music of the Hindus should be so devoid of all excellence. As music is, in its origin, the imitation of the tones of passion; and is most naturally employed for the expression of passion, in rude ages, when the power of expressing it by articulate language is the most imperfect; simple melodies, and these often highly expressive and affecting, are natural to uncultivated tribes. It was in the earliest stage of civilisation, that Orpheus is said to have possessed the power of working miracles by his lyre. Yet all Europeans, even those who are the most disposed to eulogise the attainments of the Hindus, unite in describing the music of that people as unpleasing, and void both of expression and art. Dr. Tennant, who founds his testimony both on his own, and other people's observation, says: "If we are to judge merely from the number of instruments, and the frequency with which they apply them, the Hindoos might be regarded as

sont assez ressemblans ; ils les tirent d'ordinaire de profil, parce que ce sont ceux qu'ils font le plus aisément ; ils y réussissent de trois quarti : mais pour les vêtements ou de front, ils y réussissent fort mal, n'entendant pas à y donner les ombres. Ils ne sauront former une attitude et leur peinture vive et éclatante. .... Leur pinceau est fin et délicat, et leur peinture vive et éclatante. Il faut attribuer à l'art du Jaya la beauté des couleurs." Voy. en Perse, III. 24.  
 "La peinture est encore au berceau : les Persans n'ont fait aucun progrès dans cet art. .... En général, leur manière de faire ressemble un peu à celle des Chinois : le dessin est très incorrect ; ils ne connaissent pas la perspective. Ils ne savent pas employer les ombres. .... Cependant on voit sortir de leurs mains des ouvrages assez jolis ; ils peignent assez bien les fleurs et les végétaux de fantaisie ; ils réussissent dans les arabesques ; ils emploient très bien l'or ; et qu'ils font eux-mêmes, ont tout l'éclat, toute la solidité, l'assurance que les Persans emploient. Ce sont eux qui nous ont fait connaître l'outremer." (Olivier, Voyage, V. 301.)  
 "Quoique les Chinois ayent une passion extraordinaire pour tous les ouvrages de peinture, et que leurs temples en soient régulier, ornez, on ne peut rien voir néanmoins de plus borné, et de moins régulier. Ils ne savent point manier les ombres d'un tableau, ni mêler ou adoucir les couleurs. .... Ils ne sont pas plus heureux dans la sculpture, et ils n'y observent rien. .... Ils ne sont pas les mêmes perfectionnés que les Mexicains, ou les Arabes. .... Ils ne savent point manier les couleurs, Robertson (III. 278) informe us, with that of these seems to have had the same imperfections and imperfections with that of the Mexicans seen among the points for which he most highly admires them, in which, besides the singular beauty of the colours, many portraits of the kings of Mexico, observed." (Hist. Mex. book vii. sect. 49.) "Les Mexicains," says Humboldt, "ont conservé un goût pour la peinture et pour l'art de sculpter en pierre et en bois. On est étonné de voir ce qu'ils exécutent avec un mauvais couteau, et sur les bois les plus durs. .... Ils montrent beaucoup d'aptitude pour l'exercice des arts dimitation ; ils en démontrent une grande encore pour les arts purement mécaniques. Cette aptitude déridera un jour Espagne p. 9

considerable proficients in music; yet has the testimony of all strangers deemed it equally imperfect as the other arts.<sup>1</sup> Their wailike instruments are rude, noisy, and inartificial: and in temples, those employed for the purposes of religion are managed apparently on the same principle; for, in their idea, the most pleasant and harmonious is that which makes the loudest noise."<sup>2</sup> After a description of the extreme rudeness of the instruments of music of the people of Sumbhulpoor, Mr. Motte says, "the Rajah's band always put me in mind of a number of children coming from a country fair."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Europeans in general know nothing of Indian music. They hear only the accompaniments to public processions, in which noise is the chief object to be obtained, or the singing of Mohammedans, which is Persian, not Indian. That music was cultivated on scientific principles, is evident from the accounts given of it by Sir William Jones and Mr Colbroke, from which it appears that the Hindus had a knowledge of the gamut, of a mode of notation, of measurement of time, and of a division of the notes of a more minute description than has been found convenient in Europe. The practice of the art amongst them has declined, in consequence probably of its supersession by the Mohammedans, but occasionally Hindoo performers are met with, whose instruments and execution might please more accomplished musicians than those whose opinion have been followed by the writer. See Willard, on the Music of Hindostan —W.

<sup>2</sup> Indian Rec. i 300 —*Ces peuples n'ont aucune idée des accords. Leur chant commence par un bourdonnement sourd et fort bas, après lequel ils crient*. Anquetil Duperron, Voyage aux Indes Orientales, Zendaresta, i xxvi Eron Sonnerat himself informs us, that their music is bad, and their songs destitute of harmony. Voyages aux Indes, liv iii chap viii

<sup>3</sup> Motte's Journey to Orissa, (Asiat An Regist i Miscellaneous Tracts, p 77) "Their ideas of music, if we may judge from their practice, are barbarous" Orme's Hist. Milt Trans i 3. The following passage from Garcilasso de la Vega is an important document in the history of music. It exhibits more nakedly the fact respecting its origin, than, perhaps, any other written monument, and it proves at the same time the power of expression which the art had attained. "In music," says he, "the Peruvians arrived to a certain harmony in which the Indians of Colla did more particularly excel, having been the inventors of a certain pipe made of canes glued together, every one of which having a different note of higher or lower, in the manner of organs, made a pleasing music by the dissonancy of sounds, the treble, tenor, and basse, exactly corresponding, and answering to each other; with these pipes they often played in concert. They had also other pipes, which were flutes with four or five stops, like the pipes of shepherds, with these they played not in concert, but singly, and tuned them to sonnets, which they composed in metre, the subject of which was love, and the passions which arise from the favours or displeasures of a mistress ... Every song was set to its proper tune; for two songs of different subjects could not correspond with the same air, by reason that the music which the gallant made on his flute was designed to express the satisfaction or discontent of his mind, which were not so intelligible, perhaps, by the words, as by the melancholy or cheerfulness of the tune which he played. A certain Spaniard, one night late, encountered an Indian woman in the streets of Cozco, and would have brought her back to his lodgings, but she cried out, 'For God's sake, sir, let me go, for that pipe which you hear in yonder tower calls me with great passion, and I cannot refuse the summons, for love constrains me to go, that I may be his wife and be my husband.' The songs which they composed of their wars, and grand achievements, were never set to the air of their flute, being too grave and serious to be intermixed with the pleasures and softness of love, for these

BOOK II. As the talent of the Hindus for accurate imitation, both  
 CHAP. VIII. in the manual and some of the refined arts, has excited much  
 attention; and been sometimes regarded as no mean proof  
 of ingenuity and mental culture, it is necessary to remark  
 that there are few things by which the rude state of society  
 is more uniformly characterised. It is in reality the natural  
 precursor of the age of invention; and disappears, or at least  
 ceases to make a conspicuous figure, when the nobler faculty  
 of creation comes into play. Garcilasso de la Vega, who  
 quotes Blas Valera in his support, tells us that the Peruvian  
 Indians, "if they do but see a thing, will imitate it so  
 exactly, without being taught, that they become better artists  
 and mechanics than the Spaniards themselves."<sup>1</sup>

Sir William Jones, in pompous terms, remarks: "The Hindus are said to have boasted of three inventions, all of which indeed are admirable; the method of instructing by apogues; the decimal scale; and the game of chess, on which they have some curious treatises."<sup>2</sup> As the game of

were only sung at their principal festivals, when they commemorated their victories and triumphs." Royal Comment, book II. ch. xiv. "The accounts of twenty-two centuries ago represent the Indians as a people who stood very high in point of civilization: but to judge from their ancient monuments, they had not carried the imitative arts to any thing like the degree of perfection attained by the Greeks and Romans; or even by the Egyptians. Both the Hindoos and the Chinese appear to have carried the arts just to the point requisite for useful purposes; but never to have approached the summit of perfection, as it respects taste or boldness of design." Kennel's Memoir, Introd. p. xxii. Our latest informants are the most intelligent. Mr. Ward (Introd. p. lxxi.) assures us, "whatever may have been the case in other countries, idolatry in this has certainly not contributed to carry the arts of painting or sculpture to any perfection." The Alibé Dubois (p. 463) observes, "that the ornamental arts, such as painting, instrumental music, and the like, are extremely low in estimation. Hardly any but the low tribe of the Mushiers exercise the first of these; and music is nearly confined to the barbers and Pariasis; instrumental music wholly so. The small encouragement these two arts receive is, no doubt, owing to the little progress they have made. In painting, nothing can be seen but mere daubing, set off with bright colours. Indians are great lovers of music, in ceremonies, yet I can touch that

<sup>1</sup> Royal Comment, part II. book II. chap. xxx. Frezier (Voyage to the South Sea, p. 263) says of the same people, "They have a genius for arts, and are good at imitating what they see, but very poor at invention."

<sup>2</sup> See the Discourse, Asiatic Researches, i. 429. "Invented apogues!" as well might he tell us they invented language. And the "decimal scale!" as if they were the only nation that had ten fingers! or, as if most nations had not been led, by the simple and very natural process of counting by the fingers, to denominate and distinguish numbers by comparison with that sum! The Scandinavians, Mallet informs us, counted up the unities to twelve, and denominated higher numbers by comparison with twelve, which, he justly remarks, is preferable to ten, as being more divisible into fractions. Mallet, Introd. Hist. Denmark, vol. i. chap. xiii. The Swedes and Icelanders, as well as Scotch, retain a memorial of this in their great hundred. From

chess is a species of art, the account of it seems to belong BOOK II. to this place; and as it has been rated high among the CHAP. VIII. proofs of the supposed civilisation of the Hindus, we must see what it really imports. Though there is no evidence that the Hindus invented the game, except their own pretensions,<sup>1</sup> which as evidence, are of very little value, it is by no means improbable. The invention of ingenious games is a feat most commonly displayed by nations in their rude condition. It is prior to the birth of industry that men have the strongest need for games, to relieve them from the pain of idleness: at that period they are most addicted to gaming; bestow upon it the greatest portion of time; and most intensely fix upon it all their faculties. It is, in fact, the natural occupation and resource of a rude mind, whenever destitute of the motives to industry. The valuable and intelligent historian of Chili observes of a tribe, but a few removes from the savage state, "If what the celebrated Leibnitz asserts is true, that men have never discovered greater talents than in the invention of the different kinds of games, the Araucanians may justly claim the merit of not being in this respect inferior to other nations. Their games are very numerous, and for the most part very ingenious; they are divided into the sedentary and gymnastic. It is a curious fact, and worthy of notice, that among the first is the game of chess, which they call *comican*, and which has been known to them from time immemorial. The game of *quechu*, which they esteem highly, has a great affinity to that of backgammon, but instead of dice, they make use of triangular pieces of bone marked with points, which they throw with a little hoop or circle, supported by two pegs."<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Park we learn that some of the negro tribes in Africa counted only five, the number of fingers on one of the hands, and then doubled; thus, instead of six, they said five and one; seven, five and two, &c. Park's Travels in Africa, p. 17.

<sup>1</sup> This is not true: we have not the evidence of their own pretensions. The evidence is that of Mohammedan writers: the king of India is said by Firdausi, in the Shah Nama, and the story is therefore of the tenth century at latest, to have sent a chess-board and a teacher to Nanshirvan. Sir William Jones refers to Firdausi as his authority, and this reference might have shown by whom the story was told. Various Mohammedan writers are quoted by Hyde, in his Historia Shahiuditi, who all concur in attributing the invention to the Indians.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Molina, Civil Hist. of Chili, book II. chap. x. The Persians claim the invention of this game; and as their game is radically different from that of the Hindus, it is probable they are both inventions. See Chardin, Voy. en Perse,



In almost every manufacture, and certainly as a manufacturing people in general, the Hindus are inferior to the Chinese. Yet Sir William Jones says of that latter people, "Their mechanical arts have nothing in them characteristic of a particular family ; nothing which any set of men, in a country so highly favoured by nature, might not have discovered and improved."<sup>1</sup> The partialities, which it was so much his nature to feel, prevented him from perceiving how much less entitled to any kind of admiration were the arts of another people, whom he had adopted it as a business to eulogise.

BOOK II.  
CHAP. IX.

## CHAPTER IX.

### *Literature.*

AS the knowledge of what conduces to the augmentation of human enjoyment and the diminution of human misery, is the foundation of all improvement in the condition of human life; and as literature, if not synonymous with that knowledge, is its best friend and its inseparable companion, the literature of any people is one of the sources from which the surest inferences may be drawn with respect to their civilisation.

The first literature is poetry. Poetry is the language of the passions, and men feel, before they speculate. The earliest poetry is the expression of the feelings, by which the minds of rude men are the most powerfully actuated. Before the invention of writing, men are directed also to the use of versification by the aid which it affords to the memory. As everything of which the recollection is valuable must be handed down by tradition, whatever tends to make the tradition accurate is of corresponding importance. No contrivance to this end is comparable to verse; which preserves the ideas by preserving the very words. In verse not only the few historical facts are preserved, to

"Casting iron" is not so simple a matter as our author seems to suppose. It is an art that has been practised in this manufacturing country, only within a very few years. The Hindus have the art of smelting iron, of welding it, and of making steel; and have had these arts from time immemorial. Ctesias notices the excellence of Indian steel.—W.

<sup>1</sup> Works of Sir W. Jones, Discourse on the Chinese.

BOOK II. which the curiosity of a rude age attaches itself, but in CHAR. IX. verse are promulgated the maxims of religion, and the ordinances of law. Even after the noble art of writing is known, the habit of consigning to verse every idea, destined for permanency, continues, till certain new steps are effected in the intellectual career.<sup>1</sup>

At this first stage the literature of the Hindus has always remained. The habit of expressing everything in verse; a habit which urgent necessity imposes on a people unacquainted with the use of permanent signs,<sup>2</sup> and which the power of custom upholds, till after a certain progress in improvement, even among those to whom permanent signs are known; we trace among the Hindus to the present day. All their compositions, with wonderfully few exceptions, are in verse. For history they have only certain narrative poems, which depart from all resemblance to truth and nature; and have evidently no further connection with fact than the use of certain names and a few remote allusions. Their laws, like those of rude nations in general, are in verse. Their sacred books, and even their books of

<sup>1</sup> "It was long before mankind knew the art of writing; but they very early invented several methods to supply, in a good measure, that want. The method most commonly used was, to compose their histories in verse, and sing them. Legislators made use of this expedient to consign and hand down to posterity their regulations. The first laws of all nations were composed in verse, and sung. Apollo, according to a very ancient tradition, was one of the first legislators. The same tradition says, that he published his laws to the sound of his lyre, that is to say, that he had set them to music. We have certain proof that the first laws of Greece were a kind of songs. The laws of the ancient inhabitants of Spain were verses which they sang. Tuistou was regarded by the Germans as their first lawgiver. They said he put his laws into verses and songs. This ancient custom was long kept up by several nations." Goguet's *Origin of Laws*, i. 28. See the various authorities there quoted. The laws of the Druids were in verse. Henry. *Hist. of Great Britain*, i. 315.

<sup>2</sup> It is not clear what the writer means by "permanent signs." If he means the art of printing, the Hindus were, in that respect, situated similarly as the Greeks and Romans were; and they should have also retained the use of metre in their literature. If he means the art of writing, the Hindus have been in possession of that, as long as of a literature, for anything we know to the contrary—certainly long enough to have rendered the use of memorial stanzas as a substitute for writing, unnecessary and obsolete. A little consideration might have led the writer to suspect that his theory did not satisfactorily account for the singularity, for the practice has nothing in common with the *carmina antiqua* of the Germans. The principal reason for the continued use of metre, seems to be the greater facility of its composition. Sanscrit metre is unenumbered by rhyme—the prosody is infinitely varied—and the greater freedom of syntax, and the facility of forming compound terms, in which grammatical inflexions are merged, render it less laborious to construct metrical stanzas, than to attend to the niceties of a complex grammar, which are indispensable to the composition of intelligible prose. This seems to be the chief inducement to the continuation of the practice, and not the power of habit alone.—W.

science, are in verse; and what is more wonderful still, their BOOK II.  
CHAP. IX. very dictionaries.<sup>1</sup>

There is scarcely any point connected with the state of Hindu society, on which the spirit of exaggeration and enthusiasm has more signally displayed itself than the poetry of the Hindus. Among those whose disposition was more to admire than explore, scarcely any poetry has been regarded as presenting higher claims to admiration. Among the Hindus there are two great poems, the Ramayan, and the Mahabharat, which are long narratives, or rather miscellanies, in verse, and which their admirers have been puzzled whether to denominate histories, or epic poems. By the Hindus themselves, they are moreover regarded as books of religion; nay, further, as books of law; and in the Digest which the Brahmens, under the authority of the British government, have recently compiled, the text of these poems is inserted as text of the law, in the same manner as the text of any other legal authority and standard. They may even be regarded as books of philosophy; and accordingly the part of the Mahabharat, with the translation of which Mr. Wilkins has favoured us, he actually presents to his reader as one of the most instructive specimens of the philosophical speculations of the country.

It is incompatible with the present purpose to speak of these poems in more than general terms. They describe a series of actions in which a number of men and gods are jointly engaged. These fictions are not only more extravagant, and unnatural, less correspondent with the physical and moral laws of the universe, but are less ingenious, more monstrous, and have less of anything that can engage the affection, awaken sympathy, or excite admiration, reverence, or terror, than the poems of any other, even the rudest people with whom our knowledge of the globe

<sup>1</sup> "Le Dictionnaire Amarasinha est écrit en vers Sanscrit, comme tous les anciens livres, et n'est pas divisé par chapitres comme les nôtres, mais par classes de noms . . . ainsi . . . classe Srarggararga, c'est à dire classe des noms qui appartiennent au ciel; Manouchararga, de ceux qui appartiennent à l'homme," etc. Voyage aux Indes Orientales, par le P. Paulino, II. 228. "Presque tous les livres Indiens sont écrits en vers. L'astronomie, la médecine, l'histoire, tout se chante." Ibid. p. 369. The same was the case with the ancient Germans: "Celebrant carminibus antiquis, quod nnum apud illos memorie et annallum genus est, Tulstonem," etc. Tacit. de mor. Germ. cap. x.

**BOOK II.** has yet brought us acquainted.<sup>1</sup> They are excessively **CHAP. IX.** prolix and insipid. They are often, through long passages, trifling and childish to a degree, which those acquainted with only European poetry, can hardly conceive. Of the style in which they are composed, it is far from too much to say, that all the vices which characterize the style of rude nations, and particularly those of Asia, they exhibit in perfection. Inflation: metaphors perpetual, and these the most violent and strained, often the most unnatural and ridiculous; obscurity; tautology; repetition; verbosity; confusion; incoherence; distinguish the Mahabharat and Ramayan.<sup>2</sup> That amid the numberless effu-

<sup>1</sup> Even Mr. Maurice, whose appetite for Hindu miracles is not easily overcome, could not digest the beauties of their historic muse. After an exhibition of some of these specimens in his history, he says, "I know not whether some of my readers may not be so insensible to the charms of the Indian historic muse as to rejoice that the Ramayan (only passages of it were then in an English dress) has not been translated; for certainly inflated accounts of the combats of giants, hurling rocks, and darting serpents at one another, and of monsters whose blood, spouting forth in torrents, is formed into considerable rivers, are not very consistent with the sober and dignified page of history." Maurice, Hist. of Hindustan, ii. 100. "To the above list of absurdities we may add monsters with ten heads and a hundred hands, which continue to fight after all their heads are cut off, and mow down whole battalions." Ibid. p. 249. "The minute accounts of incantations and combats of giants, that fill the Indian legends, however they may astonish the oriental literati, have no charm for the polished scholar of western climes, and are justly consigned to puerile reading." Ibid. p. 251. Yet Sir William Jones could say, "The first poet of the Hindus was the great Valmick; and his Itamayan is an epic poem on the story of Rama (or rather of the three Ramas), which, in unity of action, magnificence of imagery, and elegance of style, far surpasses the learned and elaborate work of Nonnus." See Aiat. Res. i. 258. We strongly suspect that Sir William Jones never read the poem; or more of it than scraps.

<sup>2</sup> At the time at which this was written, no other specimen of the Mahabharat had been translated, than the philosophical dialogue of the Geeta, and as there are certainly no such faults in that composition as those which Mr. Mill describes, he must have depended wholly upon his imagination for his knowledge of their existence in the rest of the poem. Some portions of the Ramayana had been rendered very uncouthly into English; but whatever may be the defects there so ruthlessly stripped of every redeeming grace, most certainly page after page will be searched in vain for "metaphors perpetual, and these the most violent, strained, unnatural, and ridiculous." It is clear, therefore, that Mr. Mill had not read even such portion of the Ramayana as was within his reach, but condemns both it and the Mahabharata upon the credit of some vague and superficial criticism, applicable not to Hindu, but to Mohammedan poetry; the characteristics of which are totally unlike. There is not so wide a contrast between Hindu and European poetry, as between Hindu and Persian. With respect to the particular poems under consideration, they are not to be judged of by a European standard, and that which to a person professing the Hindu religion, constitutes their greatest charm, is to us their main deformity; but, leaving the absurd inventions of mythology out of view, they both abound in poetical beauties of the first order, and particularly in delineations of picturesque manners and situations, and in the expression of natural and amiable feeling. On this subject we may take the opinion of a more competent Judge of poetical merit than the historian. "Le Ramayana et le Mahabharata sont des monumens d'une antiquité révéable; mais, abstraction faite de la valeur que cela leur donne, j'y trouve des choses

sions, which a wild imagination throws forth, in its loose and thoughtless career, there should now and then be something which approaches the confines of reason and taste, is so far from surprising, that it would be truly surprising if there were not. A happy description, or here and there the vivid conception of a striking circumstance, are not sufficient; the exact observation of nature, and the symmetry of a whole, are necessary, to designate the poetry of a cultivated people.

BOOK II.  
CHAP. IX.

Of the poems in dialogue, or in the dramatic form, Sacontala has been selected as the most favourable specimen. The author, Calidas, though he left only two dramatic pieces, Sir William Jones denominates the Shakspeare of India, and tells us that he stands next in reputation to their great historic poets, Valmic and Vyasa.

Sacontala was the daughter of a pious king, named Causica, and of a goddess of the lower heaven; brought up by a devout hermit, as his daughter, in a consecrated grove. The sovereign of the district, on a hunting excursion, arrives, by accident in the forest. He observes Sacontala, and her two companions, the daughters of the hermit, in the grove, with watering pots in their hands, watering their plants. Instantly he is captivated. He enters into conversation with the damsels, and the heart of Sacontala is secretly inflamed. The king dismisses his attendants, and resolves to remain in the forest. In a little time the quality of the lover is ascertained, while the secret agitation in the bosom of Sacontala throws her into a languor which resembles disease. The king overhears a conversation between her and her companions, in which, being closely interrogated, she confesses her love. The king immediately discovers himself, and declares his passion. The two friends contrive to leave them together, and they consummate "that kind of marriage which two lovers contract from the desire of amorous embraces." So precipitate a conclusion, irreconcileable as it is with the notions of a refined people, is one of the numerous mar-

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sublimes, d'autres pleines de charme et de grace, une fécondité inépuisable de l'imagination, l'attrait du merveilleux, de nobles caractères, des situations passionnées, et je ne sais quelle candeur sainte et ingénue, dans les mœurs qui y sont peints." Réflexions sur l'Etude des Langues Asiatiques, par A. W. de Schlegel.—W.

BOOK II. riages legal among the Hindus. Presently, however, the  
CHAP. IX. king is summoned to his court. He promises to send for  
his wife in three days, and leaves a ring. In the meantime  
a Brahmen, of a proud and choleric temper, comes to the  
residence of the hermit, when his two daughters are at a  
little distance, and Sacontala has been overtaken with  
sleep. Finding no one to receive him with the expected  
honours, he utters an imprecation: "He on whom thou  
art meditating, on whom alone thy heart is now fixed,  
while thou neglectest a pure gem of devotion who de-  
mands hospitality, shall forget thee when thou seest him  
next, as a man restored to sobriety, forgets the words  
which he uttered in a state of intoxication." This male-  
diction, which falls upon Sacontala, is overheard by her  
companions, and fills them with horror. They hasten to  
appease the angry Brahmen; who tells them his words  
cannot be recalled, but that the spell would be dissolved  
when the lord of Sacontala should look upon his ring.  
Her two friends agree to conceal the calamity from Sacon-  
tala, who now languishes at the neglect of her husband,  
and finds herself pregnant. The hermit Canwa, who at  
the time of the visit of the king was absent from home,  
returns, and is, by a voice from heaven, made acquainted  
with the events which have intervened. Encouraged by  
good omens, he soothes Sacontala, and resolves to send her  
to her lord. Her friends instruct her, should he not im-  
mediately recognise her, to show him the ring. Arrived at  
the palace, she is disowned by the king; thinks of the  
ring, but discovers it is lost. The king treats her, and the  
messengers who brought her, as impostors; and orders  
them into custody; but while they are conveying her  
away, a body of light, descending in a female shape, re-  
ceives her into its bosom, and disappears; upon which the  
king regards the whole as a piece of sorcery, and dismisses  
it from his thoughts. After a time, however, the ring is  
found, and conveyed to the king; when his wife, and all  
the connected circumstances immediately rush upon his  
mind. He is then plunged into affliction; ignorant where  
Sacontala may be found. In this despondency, he is sum-  
moned by Indra, the god of the firmament, to aid him  
against a race of giants, whom Indra is unable to subdue.  
Having ascended to the celestial regions, and acquitted

himself gloriously in the divine service, he is conveyed, in BOOK II.  
his descent to the earth, to the mountain Hemacuta, CHAP. IX.  
“where Casyapa, father of the immortals, and Aditi his  
consort, reside in blessed retirement.” To this sacred  
spot had Sacontala, by her mother’s influence, been con-  
veyed; and there she had brought forth her son, a won-  
derful infant, whom its father found at play with a lion’s  
whelp, and making the powerful animal feel the superiority  
of his strength. The king now recognises his wife and his  
son, of whom the most remarkable things are portended;  
and perfect happiness succeeds.

There is surely nothing in the invention of this story,  
which is above the powers of the imagination in an un-  
cultivated age. With the scenery and the manners which  
the Hindu poet has perpetually present to his observa-  
tion, and the mythology which perpetually reigns in his  
thoughts, the incidents, are among the most obvious, and  
the most easy to be imagined, which it was possible for  
him to choose. Two persons of celestial beauty and ac-  
complishments meet together in a solitary place, and fall  
mutually in love: To the invention of this scene, but  
little ingenuity can be supposed to be requisite. To  
create an interest in this love, it was necessary it should  
be crossed. Surely no contrivance for such a purpose was  
ever less entitled to admiration than the curse of a Brah-  
men. A ring, with power to dissolve the charm, and that  
ring at the moment of necessity lost, are contrivances to  
bring about a great event, which not only display the  
rudeness of an ignorant age, but have been literally, or  
almost literally, repeated, innumerable times, in the fables  
of other uncultivated nations. To overcome the diffi-  
culties, which the interest of the plot rendered it neces-  
sary to raise, by carrying a man to heaven to conquer  
giants for a god, for whom the god was not a match, is an  
expedient which requires neither art nor invention; and  
which could never be endured, where judgment and taste  
have received any considerable cultivation.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Much of what is intended for disparagement here is the highest com-  
mendation that criticism could have uttered. The incidents are natural and  
easy, and in accordance with national taste and belief. The hero and heroine  
are persons of the highest interest, not only for their rank, but their beauty  
and accomplishments. Yet, notwithstanding their exalted excellence, they are  
subjected to the usual fate of lovers. The course of true love runs not smooth,

**BOOK II.** The poem, indeed, has some beautiful passages. The **CHAP. IX.** courtship between Sacontala and Dushmantu is delicate and interesting ; and the workings of the passion in two amiable minds are naturally and vividly portrayed. The friendship which exists between the three youthful maidens is tender and delightful ; and the scene which takes place when Sacontala is about to leave the peaceful hermitage where she had happily spent her youth ; her expressions of tenderness to her friends, her affectionate parting with the domestic animals she had tended, and even with the flowers and trees in which she had delighted, breathe more than pastoral sweetness. These, however, are precisely the ideas and affections, wherever the scene is a peaceful one, which may naturally arise in the simplest state of society ; as the fables of the golden age, and of Arcadia, abundantly testify ; and in whatever constitutes the beauty of these scenes, they are rivalled by the Song of Solomon, which is avowedly the production of a simple and unpolished age.<sup>1</sup> Beyond these few passages, there is nothing in Sacontala, which either accords with the understanding, or can gratify the fancy, of an instructed people.

Sir William Jones, who, on the subject of a supposed ancient state of high civilization, riches, and happiness among the Hindus, takes everything for granted, not only without proof, but in opposition to almost everything, saving the assumptions of the Brahmens, which could lead him to a different conclusion, says, "The dramatic species

and they are made unhappy by the most awful, in Hindu estimation, of all events, the imprecation of a Brahman. The interest is artfully kept up by a contrivance to which the only grave objection is, that it is not new, the consequence of its being popular ; and a happy catastrophe is brought about by the most approved of all rules, the *dignus vincere nodus*. In all this there is great art, and the skill is evidenced by the success with which it has deceived the critic.—W.

<sup>1</sup> Of the Song of Solomon, Voltaire, notwithstanding all his prejudices against the Jews, confesses, "Après tout, ce cantique est un morceau précieux de l'antiquité. C'est le seul livre d'amour qui nous soit resté des Hébreux. Il y est souvent parlé de Jouiſſance. C'est une Églogue Juive. Le style est comme celui de tous les ouvrages d'éloquence des Hébreux, sans liaison, sans suite, plein de répétitions, confus, ridiculement métaphorique : mais il y a des endroits qui respirent la naïveté et l'amour." Voltaire, *Diction. Philos.*, Mot *Solomon*. The criticisms would in most respects exactly suit Sacontala.—M.

Few, except the writer, would have had recourse to Voltaire, for a criticism on the Song of Solomon. Still fewer will find any resemblance between it and Sacontala.—W.

of entertainment must have been carried to great perfection, when Vieramaditya, who reigned in the first century before Christ, gave encouragement to poets, philologers, and mathematicians, at a time when the Britons were as unlettered and unpolished as the army of Hanumat.<sup>1</sup> Sir William forgets that, more than a century before Christ, the Britons had their Druids; between whom and the Brahmins,<sup>2</sup> in character, doctrines, and acquirements, a remarkable similarity has been traced.<sup>3</sup>

The mere existence, however, of dramatic entertainments has been held forth, in the case of the Hindus, as proof of a high state of civilization; and Sir William Jones, whose imagination on the accomplishments of the orientals delighted to gild, thinks the representation of Sacontala must have been something pre-eminently glorious; as the scenery must have been striking; and "as there is good reason," he says, "to believe, that the court of Avanti was equal in brilliancy, in the reign of Vieramaditya, to that of any monarch in any age or country."<sup>4</sup> To how great a degree this latter supposition is erroneous, we shall presently see. In the meantime, it is proper to remark, that nations may be acquainted with dramatic entertainments, who have made but little progress in knowledge and civilization. In extent of dominion, power, and everything on which the splendour of a court de-

<sup>1</sup> Preface to Sir William Jones's Translation of Sacontala.

<sup>2</sup> When the voluminous works of the Druids, or when any written specimens of them are produced, we shall be better able to compare their learning with that of the Brahmins. Even if the testimony of such superficial and credulous inquirers as the ancients undoubtedly were, be admitted, it will not be denied that Sir William Jones's parallel is allowable. The Britons were, if we may credit the same testimony, which vouches for "the learning" of the Druids, as unlettered and unpolished as the army of Hanumat: they certainly had no theatrical amusements.—W.

<sup>3</sup> The conformities in their religious system have already been remarked. All their doctrines, their narratives, and even the laws of which they were the promulgators, were delivered in verse. "They had made considerable progress," says Dr. Henry, "in several branches of learning. We shall be confirmed in this," he adds, "by observing the respectful terms in which the best Greek and Roman writers speak of their learning. Diogenes Laertius places them in the same rank, in point of learning and philosophy, with the Chaldeans of Assyria, the Magi of Persia, and the gymnosoplists and Brahmins of India. Both Cesar and Mela observe that they had formed very large systems of astronomy and natural philosophy; and that these systems, together with their observation on other parts of learning, were so voluminous, that their scholars spent no less than twenty years in making themselves master of them, and in getting by heart that infinite multitudo of verses in which they were contained." Henry's Hist. of Great Britain, II. 5, and I. 163.

<sup>4</sup> Preface to Sacontala.

BOOK II. pends, it will not, probably, be alleged, that any Hindu  
 CHAP. IX. sovereign ever surpassed the present emperors of China.

The Chinese, too, are excessively fond of dramatic performances; and they excel in poetry as well as the Hindus; yet our British ambassador, and his retinue, found their dramatic representations very rude and dull entertainments.<sup>1</sup>

As poetry is the first cultivated of all the branches of literature, there is at least one remarkable instance, that of Homer, to prove, that in a rude state of society it may acquire extraordinary perfection. At a point of civilization lower than that which we ascribe to the Hindus, poetry has been produced more excellent than theirs. From the effects produced by the poetic declamations of the Druids, it is certain that they must have possessed the faculty of working powerfully on the imaginations and sympathies of their audience. The Celtic poetry, ascribed to Ossian, and other bards, which, whatever age, more recent or more remote, controversy may assign for its date, is, beyond a doubt, the production of a people whose ideas were extremely scanty, and their manners rude, surpasses,

<sup>1</sup> "Wretched dramas," Lord Macartney calls them. Barrow's Life of Lord Macartney, ii. 286.

Garcilasso de la Vega, on the subject of the ancient Peruvians, says, "The Amautas, who were men of the best ingenuity among them, invented comedies and tragedies, which, in their solemn festivals they represented before their king and the lords of his court.—The plot or argument of their tragedies was to represent their military exploits, and the triumphs, victories, and heroic actions of their renowned men." Royal Commentaries of Peru, book ii. chap. xv.

"Dramatic as well as lyric poetry," says Clavigero, "was greatly in repute among the Mexicans." He then describes their theatres, and adds, "Boturini says, that the Mexican comedies were excellent." Clavigero, Hist. of Mexico, book vii. sect. 43. Carli (*Lettres Américaines*, i. 296) says, "Mais que direz vous si je vous assure que les Péruviens jouoient des comédies pendant ces fêtes, et qu'ils aimoient passionnément ce plaisir. Cela est cependant vrai. La comédie faisoit donc un des plaisirs du Pérou; mais la tragédie étoit préférée à Tlascala, dont le peuple étoit républicain. Chez un peuple indépendant on se plait à produire les tyrans sur la scène pour en inspirer la haine à la génération actuelle, qui la transmet à la suivante. .... Mais on a aussi remarqué ce goût du théâtre chez plusieurs peuples des îles du Sud." But an art which is known to the islanders of the South Sea, is not a proof of high civilization. The people in the Birman empire are fond of dramatic entertainments; but these entertainments among them are very rude. Dr. Buchanan, *Asiatic Res.* vi. 305.—M.

Of the Chinese drama, we are now qualified to judge, as well as of the Hindu, by translations; and the comparison is much in favour of the latter. The action of Chinese plays is unskillfully conducted, and they are wanting in the high poetic tone which distinguishes those of the Hindus; at the same time they are ingenious, often interesting, and represent manners and feelings with truth, and sometimes with force. They are the works of a civilized people. Of the Peruvian and Mexican theatre we may estimate the merits when specimens are produced.—W.

in every point of excellence, the sterile extravagance of BOOK II. the Hindus.<sup>1</sup> In so rude a state of society as that which existed in Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, at the time of our Anglo-Saxon monarchies, the number of poets, and the power of their compositions, were exceedingly great.<sup>2</sup>

Even in that figurative and inflated style, which has been supposed a mark of oriental composition, and is, in reality, a mark only of a low stage of society, uniformly discovered in the language of a rude people, the poetry of the northern bards exhibits a resemblance to that of the Hindus, the Persians, Arabians, and other eastern nations,<sup>3</sup> "The style of these ancient poems," says Mallet, "is very enigmatical and figurative, very remote from common lan-

<sup>1</sup> The poems of Ossian are the impositions of a civilized age, founded upon a few ancient traditions; and their unnatural, and forced turgidity, their want of truth, as pictures of manners, their barrenness of incidents, and the absence of both simplicity and variety, render them unworthy to be named with the authentic, natural and rich, although, sometimes, extravagant inventions of the Hindus.—W.

<sup>2</sup> "The poets of the north" (to use the words of Dr. Henry) "were particularly famous in this period, and greatly caressed by our Anglo-Saxon kings. 'It would be endless,' (says an excellent antiquary) 'to name all the poets of the north who flourished in the courts of the kings of England, or to relate the distinguished honours and magnificent presents that were heaped upon them.' The same writer hath preserved the names of no fewer than eight of those Danish, Norwegian, and Icelandic poets, who flourished in the Court of Canute the Great.—The poems of those ancient bards of the north, are said to have produced the most amazing effects on those who heard them, and to have roused or soothed the most impetuous passions of the human mind. Revenge, it is well known, rages with the greatest violence in the hearts of warlike, fierce barbarians, and is, of all their passions, the most furious and ungovernable: yet it is said to have been subdued by the enchanting power of poetry. Egil-Skallagrim, a famous poet of those times, had quarrelled with Eric Bloodox, King of Norway; and in the course of the quarrel had killed the King's son and several of his friends; which raised the rage of Eric against him to the greatest height. Egil was taken prisoner, and sent to the King, who was then in Northumberland. No sooner was he brought into the presence of the enraged monarch, who had in his own mind doomed him to the most cruel tortures, than he began to sing a poem which he had composed in praise of his royal virtues, and conveyed his flattery in such sweet and soothing strains, that they procured him not only the forgiveness of all his crimes, but even the favour of his prince. The power of poetry is thus described in one of their most ancient odes: 'I know a song by which I soften and enchant the arms of my enemies, and render their weapons of none effect. I know a song which I need only to sing when men have loaded me with bonds; for the moment I sing it my chains fall in pieces, and I walk forth at liberty. I know a song useful to all mankind: for as soon as hatred inflames the sons of men, the moment I sing it, they are appeased. I know a song of such virtue, that were I caught in a storm, I can hush the winds, and render the air perfectly calm.'—Those ancient bards, who had acquired so great an ascendant over the minds of their ferocious countrymen, must certainly have been possessed of an uncommon portion of that poetic fire, which is the gift of nature, and cannot be acquired by art." —Henry's Hist. of Great Britain, book II. chap. v.

<sup>3</sup> This is repetition of an error already corrected. The poetry of England might be classed with those of Persia and Arabia, with equal propriety, as that of the Hindus.—W.

**BOOK II.** gunge; and for that reason, grand, but timid ; sublime, but obscure. If everything should be expressed by imagery, figures, hyperboles, and allegories, the Scandinavians may rank in the highest class of poets."<sup>1</sup> For these peculiarities, too, this author philosophically accounts. "The soaring flights of fancy, may possibly more peculiarly belong to a rude and uncultivated, than to a civilized people. The great objects of nature strike more forcibly on their imaginations. Their passions are not impaired by the constraint of laws and education. The paucity of their ideas, and the barrenness of the language, oblige them to borrow from all nature, images in which to clothe their conceptions."<sup>2</sup> The poetry of the Persians resembles that of the Arabians; both resemble that of the Hindus; both have been celebrated in still higher strains, and are entitled to more of our admiration. The Persians have their

<sup>1</sup> Mallet, *Introd. Hist. Denmark*, I. 13. The following is a very soft but correct delineation of the rude features of Hindu poetry. "The poetical expression of the Hindus perhaps offends by too great loftiness and emphasis. One may understand their books and conversation in prose; but it is impossible to comprehend those in verse, until diligent study has rendered them familiar. Quaint phrases, perpetual allegories, the poetical terminations of the words, contracted expressions and the like, render the poetical style obscure and difficult to be understood, excepting to those who are inured to it. One of the principal defects of the Hindu poets is that their descriptions are commonly too long and minute. For example, if they are describing a beautiful woman, they are never contented with drawing her likeness with a single stroke..... Such a mode of expression would not be strong enough for the gross comprehension of a Hindu. The poet must particularize the beauty of her eyes, her forehead, her nose, her cheeks, and must expatiate on the colour of her skin, and the manner in which she adorns every part of her body. He will describe the turn and proportion of her arms, legs, thighs, shoulders, chest, and, in a word, of all parts, visible or invisible; with an accurate recital of the shape and form which best indicate their beauty and symmetry. He will never desist from his colouring till he has represented in detail every feature and part in the most laboured and tedious style, but at the same time with the closest resemblance. The epithets, in their poetical style, are frequent, and almost always figurative.—The brevity and conciseness of many modes of expression in the Hindu idioms does not hinder their style, upon the whole, from being extremely diffuse.—To give an exact idea of the different species of Hindu poesy would not be much relished by the greater number of readers, so different in their manner from ours. All their little pieces that I have seen are in general very flat." Description, &c. of the People of India, by the Abbé Dubois, p. 267.

<sup>2</sup> Mallet, *ut supra*. In the very subjects of their poems, as well as the style of them, the Scandinavian bards bore a great resemblance to the Hindu. Of the poetry of the Scalds, Mallet says (*Ibid. II. 183*), "The same taste and mode of composition prevails every where: we have constantly allegories and combats; giants contending with the gods: Loki perpetually deceiving them; Thor interposing in their defence, &c." The Scandinavians had not only striking poems, but treatises on the art of poetry. *Id. Introduction to the Edda*, p. xix. Clavigero says of the Mexicans, "The language of their poetry was brilliant, pure, and agreeable, figurative, and embellished with frequent comparisons to the most pleasing objects in nature, such as flowers, trees rivers, &c." *Hist. of Mex. book vii. sect. 42.*

great historic poem, the *Shah Namu*, corresponding to the Mahabharat or Ramayan of the Hindus. It embraces a period of 3700 years, and consists of 60,000 rhymed couplets. On this poem, the most lofty epithets of praise have been bestowed; and a part of it, embracing a period of 300 years, Sir William Jones selects as itself a whole; a poem truly epic, of which the merit hardly yields to that of the Iliad itself.<sup>1</sup> We shall speak of it in the language of an oriental scholar, who has made the literature of Persia more peculiarly his study than Sir William Jones. The *Shah Namu*, says Mr. Scott Waring, "has probably been praised as much for its length, as its intrinsic merit. When we allow it is unequalled in the East, we must pause before we pronounce it to be equal, or to approach very nearly, to the divinest poem of the West. The stories in the *Shah Namu*," says he, "are intricate and perplexed, and as they have a relation to each other, they can only be understood by a knowledge of the whole. Episodes are interwoven in episodes; peace and war succeed each other; and centuries pass away without making any alteration in the conduct of the poem—the same prince continues to resist the Persian arms; the same hero leads them to glory—and the subterfuge of supposing two Afrasiabs or two Roostums, betrays, at least, the intricacy and confusion of the whole fable. The character of Nestor answered the most important ends, his eloquence and experience had a wonderful effect in soothing the contentions of a divided council; but the age of Zel or of Roostum answers no purpose, for they only share longevity in common with their fellow creatures." In many instances, he adds, "the poet is tedious and uninteresting. He is often too minute; and by making his description particular, makes it ridiculous. An example of this may be given in his description of Ukwani Deo; which, instead of expressing his immense size by some bold figure, gives us his exact measure: *He was one hundred yards high, and twenty broad.*"<sup>2</sup> With respect to the style of this, as well as of

<sup>1</sup> The words of Sir William Jones are: "Nobilissimum interea, et longissimum (voluminis enim permagni, prope dimidiam partem constitutum) est sine ulla dubitatione vero epicum, et profecto nullum est ab Europis scriptum poema, quod ad Homeri dignitatem, et quasi coelestem ardorem propius accedit." Works, II. 502.

<sup>2</sup> Tour to Sheeraz, by Ed. Scott Waring, pp. 158, 159, 160, 198.

**BOOK II.** the Mohammedan conquests;<sup>1</sup> and since that period, it is not to Hindu, but Mohammedan pens that we are indebted for all our knowledge of the Mohammedan conquests, and of the events which preceded the passage to India by the Cape of Good Hope.<sup>2</sup> An inclination at first appeared among the warlike admirers of Sanscrit to regard the poems Mahabharat and Ramayan, as a sort of historical records. A more intimate acquaintance with those grotesque productions has demonstrated the impossibility of reconciling them with the

<sup>1</sup> Rennel's Memoir, Introd. p. xl.

<sup>2</sup> "That no Hindu nation, but the Cashmirians, have left us regular histories," says Sir W. Jones, "in their ancient language, we must ever lament." *Asiat. Res.* iv. xvii. What he meant by excepting the Cashmirians, we know not. No history of them has ever been seen. "Although we have had recourse," says Dr. Tennant, "to the Sanscrit records at Benares for several years, no history of the country has been found, which is the composition of a native." *Ind. Rec.* i. 10. "Their poets," says Mr. W. Chantler, "seem to have been their only historians as well as divines; and whatever they relate is wrapped up in this burlesque garb, set off, by way of ornament, with circumstances highly incredible and absurd, and all this without any date, and in no order or method, than such as the poet's fancy suggested and found most convenient." *Asiat. Rec.* i. 157. Such is the character of the Puranas, from which Mr. Wilford has exerted himself with such a waste of labour and credulity to extract some scanty fragments of history; or rather something, it is difficult to say what, on which some few historical inferences might be founded. "The department of ancient history in the East is so desiformed by fable and anachronism, that it may be considered an absolute blank in Indian literature." Wilks's *Myrore*, Pref. p. xv. Mr. Dow's prejudices went far: "We must not," says he, (*Preface to his Hist. of Hindostan*) "with Ferishta, consider the Hindus as destitute of genuine domestic annals, or that those voluminous records they possess are mere legends framed by the Bramins." Yet it has been found that all which Ferishta said was true, and all that Col. Dow believed was false.—"Seriously speaking, the turn and bent of the imagination of the people of India are such, that they can in no wise be excited but by what is monstrous. Ordinary occurrences make no impression upon them at all. Their attention cannot be gained without the introduction of giants and pygmies. The Brahmans, therefore, having studied this propensity, availed themselves of it to invent a religious worship, which they artfully interwove with their own private interests. This passion of the Hindus for the extraordinary and the wonderful, must have been remarked by every one who has ever so little studied their character. It continually leads to the observation I have so frequently repeated, that as often as it was necessary to move their gross imagination, some circumstance, altogether extravagant, but coloured with the hue of truth, was required to be added to the simplicity of narrative or fact. To give them any idea of the marvellous, something must be invented that will overturn, or at least alter the whole order of nature. The miracles of the Christian religion, however extraordinary they must appear to a common understanding, are by no means so to the Hindus. Upon them they have no effect. The exploits of Joshua and his army, and the prodigies they effected by the interposition of God, in the conquest of the land of Canaan, seem to them unworthy of notice, when compared with the achievements of their own Rama, and the miracles which attended his progress when he subjected Ceylon to his yoke. The mighty strength of Samson dwindles into nothing, when opposed to the overwhelming energy of Ball, of Ravana, and the giants. The resurrection of Lazarus itself is, in their eyes, an ordinary event, of which they see frequent examples, in the Vishnu ceremonies of the Pahlavahdam.—I particularize these examples, because they have been actually opposed to me more than once by Brahmans, in my disputations with them on religion." Abbé Dubois, p. 421.

order of human affairs, and, as the only expedient to soften the deformities in which they abound, suggested a theory that they are allegorical.<sup>1</sup>

BOOK II.  
CHAP. IX.

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The ancient Persians, who used the Pehlavi language, appear in this respect to have resembled the Hindus. "I never," says Sir John Malcolm, "have been able to hear of the existence of any work in the ancient Pehlavi that could be deemed historical."<sup>2</sup>

The modern Persians, in this, as in many other respects, are found to have made some progress beyond the ancient Persians, and beyond the Hindus. The first step towards the attainment of perfect history is the production of prose compositions, expressly destined to exhibit a record of real transactions, but in which imagination prevails over exactness, and a series of transaction appears in which the lines of reality can but faintly be traced. With histories of this description the Persians abound; but "the Persians," says Mr. Scott Waring, "do not make a study of history; consequently their histories abound with idle tales, and extravagant fables."<sup>3</sup> Another celebrated Persian scholar says: "The Persians, like other people, have assumed the privilege of romancing on the early periods of society. The first dynasty is, in consequence, embarrassed by fabling. Their most ancient princes are chiefly celebrated for their victories over the demons or genii called dives; and some have reigns assigned to them of eight hundred or a thousand

<sup>1</sup> Such is the opinion of some of the best Sanscrit scholars; for example, of Mr. Wilkins. The same idea is encouraged by Sir William Jones, *Asiat. Res.* ii. 135. The good sense of Major Rennel rejected at an early period the notion of their historical truth. "The Mahabharat.....supposed to contain a large portion of interesting historical matter: but if the father of Grecian poetry made so total a change in the story of Helen, in order to give a full scope to his imagination: what security have we that another poet may not mislead us in matters of fact." *Memoir*, p. xlii. A mind of greater compass and force has previously said, "It were absurd to quote the fable of the Iliad or the Odyssey, the legends of Hercules, Theseus, or Oedipus, as authorities in matter of fact relating to the history of mankind; but they may, with great justice, be cited to ascertain what were the conceptions and sentiments of the age in which they were composed, or to characterize the genius of that people, with whose imaginations they were blended, and by whom they were fondly rehearsed and admired." Ferguson, *Essay on the Hist. of Civil Society*, part II. sect. 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Hist. of Persia*, i. 273. Yet the Jewish scriptures tell us, that the deeds of the kings of Persia were written in chronicles of that kingdom; and Ctesias, who was at the court of Artaxerxes Mnemon, says he had access to volumes contained in the royal archives. The Persians had no historians before the era of Mohammed; Kinnair's *Geog. Mem. of the Persian Empire*, p. 49 — In Persia, there is now, as there has long been, a royal historiographer, whose business it is to record the glories of the reigning prince. *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Tour to Sheeraz*, p. 153.

BOOK II. years."<sup>1</sup> On the comparison of the Grecian and native histories of Persia, he says, "There seems to be nearly as much resemblance between the annals of England and Japan, as between the European and Asiatic relations of the same empire." The names and numbers of the kings, as exhibited by the historians of the two countries, have no analogy. No mention in the Persian annals is made of the Great Cyrus, nor of any king of Persia, the events of whose reign can, by any construction, be tortured into a similitude with his. No trace is to be found of Crœsus, of Cambyses, or of his expedition against the Ethiopians; none of Smerdis Magus, or of Darius Hystaspes: "not a vestige of the famous battles of Marathon, Thermopylae, Salamis, Platæa, or Mycale, nor of the mighty expedition of Xerxes."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Richardson's *Dissertations*, p. 47.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 47—60. He gives the following as the account, by the Persian historian, of the conquest of Alexander. Bahman, the King, had married his own daughter. When he died, leaving her pregnant, he appointed her his successor, if she had no son; and regent, if she had one. The lady wished to reign; and being delivered of a son, concealed his birth. He was exposed, but found, and brought up by a dyer. When grown to manhood he joined the Queen's army, which was marching against the Greeks, and performed prodigies of valour. The Queen sent for him; he was recognised, and the Queen resigned. He became King Darab. He marched against Philip of Macedon, and forced him to take refuge in a forest. Peace was granted, on Philip's giving his daughter to Darab, and paying annually a thousand eggs of gold. Philip's daughter ceased to please, and Darab sent her back after she was pregnant. The child she brought forth was the famous Alexander. The son of Darab, who succeeded him, proved so bad a king, that the nobles of Persia advised Alexander to assert his right to the throne. Alexander refused the annual tribute. Darab, the younger, marched against him, and was conquered. After the battle he was assassinated in his tent by his attendants. But Alexander protested his ignorance of the crime, and Darab named him his successor, requesting him to govern Persia by Persian nobles, which he did. Ibid. In another passage (Ibid. p. 326) he acknowledges that no account is found in the Persian historians of the expedition of Cyrus the younger. The story of Alexander, as told by Sir John Malcolm, in his late history of Persia, is similar, though not the same. Mr. Gibbon says well, "The art and genius of history has ever been unknown to the Asiatics..... And perhaps the Arabs might not find in a single historian, so clear and comprehensive a narrative of their own exploits as will be deduced in the ensuing sheets." Gibbon. chap. II. Chardin, speaking of the ignorance of the Persians, in regard to geography and history, says, "On ne croiroit jamais que cette ignorance fut aussi outrée qu'ello l'est, et je ne l'aurois pu croire moi-même si je ne m'en étois convaincu par un long usage ..... Pour ce qui est de l'histoire du pays, les livres qui en traitent ne sont clairs et sûrs, et ne se suivent, que depuis la naissance de la religion Mahométane: de manière qu'on ne se peut fier à rien de ce qui est rapporté de siècles précédents, surtout en matière de chronologie, où ces gens commettent les plus grossières erreurs, confondant les siècles, et mettant tout pèle-mêle sans se soncer du temps.—Toutes ces histoires, jusqu'au tems de Mahammed, sont des pièces où fabuleuses où romanesques, remplies de mille contes où il n'y a rien de vraisemblable." Voyage en Perse, ill. 256. And Gibbon says (*Hist. of Decl. and Fall*, ch. x. p. 442.), "So little has been preserved of Eastern history before Mahomet, that the modern Persians are totally ignorant of the victory of Sapor, an event so glorious to their nation."—"When the Romans had supplanted the Greeks, and extended their dominion over all Europe, they also engaged in endless wars with the Persian kings of the

On the geography and chronology, as parts of the literature of the Hindus, I shall express myself in the language of Mr. Wilford. "The Hindus," says that celebrated Hindu scholar, "have no regular work on the subject of geography, or none at least that ever came to my knowledge."<sup>1</sup> I was under a necessity of extracting my materials from their historical poems, or as they may be called more properly, their legendary tales." In another place, he says, "The Hindu systems of geography, chronology, and history, are all equally monstrous and absurd. The circumference of the earth is said to be 500,000,000 yojanas, or 2,456,000,000 British miles: the mountains are asserted to be 100 yojanas, or 491 British miles high. Hence the mountains to the south of Benares are said, in the Puranas, to have kept the holy city in total darkness, till Maha-deva, growing angry at their insolence, they humbled themselves to the ground, and their highest peak now is not more than 500 feet high. In Europe, similar notions once prevailed; for we are told that the Cimmerians were kept in continual darkness by the interposition of immensely high mountains. In the Calica Purana, it is said, that the mountains have sunk considerably, so that the highest is not above one yojana, or five miles high. When the Puranics speak of the kings of ancient times, they are equally extravagant. According to them, King Yudhishthir reigned 27,000 years; King Nanda is supposed to have possessed in his treasury above 1,584,000,000 pounds sterling in gold coin alone; the value of the silver and copper coin, and jewels, exceeded

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Ashkanian and Sassanian dynasties, for these Asiatic provinces. The events of these early periods are not well described in our histories, as we have no authentic records prior to the time of Mohammed: But the Greeks, who have histories which extend back 2000 years, have minutely described all the circumstances of these wars." Travels of Mirza Abu Taleb Khan, translated by Charles Stewart, Esq., M.A.S., Professor of Oriental Languages, in the Hon. East India Company's College, Herts. iii. 23.

<sup>1</sup> Hindu literature is not devoid of sensible and correct geography, as far as India is concerned. The general geography of the Puranas, is mythology. But even they declare the topography of the country, mountains, and rivers, and cities, with perfect fidelity. Col. Wilford's later as well as his earlier notions, should have been cited. In the fourteenth volume of the Researches, is a paper on the ancient geography of India, from original sources, which had latterly come into his hands; and from which rational and accurate accounts of India were to be extracted. Col. Wilford announced his intention of making the originals over to the Asiatic Society of Bengal; but the intention was never fulfilled. The MSS. disappeared at his death, except a few loose leaves, from some of which I translated a description of the western districts of Bengal, containing much curious and authentic information. Oriental Quarterly Magazine. See also Vishnu Purana.—W.

**BOOK II.** all calculation; and his army consisted of 100,000,000 men.  
**CHAR. IX.** These accounts, geographical, chronological, and historical, as absurd and inconsistent with reason, must be rejected. This monstrous system seems to derive its origin from the ancient period of 12,000 natural years, which was admitted by the Persians, the Etruscans, and, I believe, also, by the Celtic tribes; for we read of a learned nation in Spain, which boasted of having written histories of above six thousand years."<sup>1</sup>

It is an error to suppose, that for the origin of unprofitable speculations respecting the nature and properties of thought, great progress in civilisation is required. The fears and hopes, the conceptions and speculations, respecting the Divine Nature, and respecting a future state of existence, lead to inquiries concerning the invisible operations of the mind. If we consult but history, we shall be led to conclude that certain curious, and subtle, but idle questions, respecting the mental operations, are a mark, not of a cultivated, but a rude state of society.<sup>2</sup> It was during an age of darkness and barbarity, that metaphysical speculations engaged so passionately the minds of the European doctors; and called forth examples of the greatest acuteness and subtlety. It was prior to the dawn of true philosophy, that the sophists, whose doctrine was a collection of inge-

<sup>1</sup> See Wilford on Egypt and the Nile, *Asiat. Res.* ill. 295; and on the Chronology of the Hindus. *Ibid.* v. 241.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Mill had no other key to the philosophy of the Hindus, than the imperfect views conveyed in a few verses of the laws of Manu. His opinion of its character and value, is necessarily erroneous. Of his criticism on the passages in the Code, it may be remarked, that besides being as usual uncandid, he makes no allowance for the difficulty of expressing terms, which in the original, have a determinate import, by others which have no precise and definite signification; and he forgets that in Manu, the ideas are enounced, not explained. *The object of the writer not being to teach philosophy, but to detail the evolution of the mind, and the rest, in the order in which certain philosophical schools had arranged them.* With regard to the writer's theory, that the cultivation of metaphysics is a proof rather of barbarism than of civilization, it may be asked if Locke, Descartes, Leibnitz, Kant, Schelling, were barbarians. That men when they begin to reason, should reason respecting their own being is natural; but time, and thought, and intellectual effort, are necessary before their reasonings can assume systematic and diversified classification. The metaphysical speculations of the Hindus are now more accurately known and estimated. "La philosophie Indienne est tellement vaste que tous les systèmes de philosophie s'y rencontrent, qu'elle forme tout un monde philosophique, et qu'on peut dire à la lettre que l'histoire de la philosophie de l'Inde est un abrégé de l'histoire entière de la Philosophie."—*Cours de l'histoire de la Philosophie* par M. V. Cousin. This opinion, it is important to observe, is founded not upon a few scattered and imperfect notions, but the elaborate dissertations of Mr. Colebrook. *Trans. R. As. Society.* Professor Cousin, was therefore acquainted with his subject.—W.

nious quibbles on abstract questions, enjoyed their celebrity in Greece. Pythagoras flourished at a very early age; and yet there is a high degree of subtle ingenuity in the doctrines he is said to have taught. Amid the rudeness of the Celtic inhabitants of Gaul and Britain, the Druids carried, we know not how far, the refinements of metaphysical speculation. Strabo, as quoted by Dr. Henry,<sup>1</sup> says, "The Druids add the study of moral philosophy to that of physiology.<sup>2</sup> Ammianus Marcellinus informs us, that the inhabitants of Gaul, having been by degrees a little polished, the study of some branches of useful learning was introduced among them by the bards, the Eubates, and the Druids. The Eubates made researches into the order of things, and endeavoured to lay open the most hidden secrets of nature. The Druids were men of a still more sublime and penetrating spirit, and acquired the highest renown by their speculations, which were at once subtle and lofty."<sup>3</sup> The progress which the Arabians made in a semblance of abstract science has been highly celebrated. The following observations, borrowed from one of the most intelligent of the Europeans by whom they have been studied, will enable us to appreciate their metaphysical science. Of the Arabians, he says, even at the brightest period of their history, the Europeans have been prone to form too favourable, indeed extravagant ideas.<sup>4</sup> Their best writers are the translators or copiers of the Greeks. The only study peculiar to them, a study which they continue to cultivate, is that of their own language. But by the study of language, among the Arabians, we must not understand that philosophical spirit of research, which in words investigates the history of ideas, in order to perfect the art by which they are communicated. The study is cultivated solely on account of its connexion with religion. As the word of God conveys the meaning of God, no conceivable nicety of investigation is ever too much to elicit that meaning in its divine purity. For this reason, it is of the highest moment to ascertain

<sup>1</sup> Hist. of Great Britain, II. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Strabo, lib. iv. p. 197.

<sup>3</sup> Ammian. Marcell. lib. xv. cap. ix.

<sup>4</sup> The high civilization, refined literature, beautiful language, profound philosophy, polished manners, and amiable morals of the Arabians, are celebrated in the highest strains, by M. de Boulainvilliers, *Vie de Mahomet*, p. 83; Ed. of Amsterdam, 1731. Pythagoras, after having studied the sciences of the Egyptians, travelled into Arabia to learn the philosophy of the Arabians. Porphyry. de Vit. Pythag.

**BOOK II.** not only the exact signification of the words, but likewise  
**CHAP. IX.** the accents, inflections, signs, and pauses; in a word, all  
 ————— the most minute niceties of prosody and pronunciation; and it is impossible to conceive what a degree of complication they have invented and refined on this subject, without having heard their declamations in the mosques. The grammar alone takes several years to acquire. Next is taught the Nahu, which may be defined the science of terminations. These, which are foreign to the vulgar Arabic, are superadded to words, and vary according to the numbers, cases, genders and person. After this, the student, now walking among the learned, is introduced to the study of eloquence. For this, years are required; because the doctors, mysterious like the Brahmens, impart their treasures only by degrees. At length arrives the time for the study of the law and the Fikah; or science peculiarly so called, by which they mean theology. If it be considered that the object of these studies is always the Koran; that it is necessary to be acquainted with all its mystical and allegorical meanings, to read all its commentaries and paraphrases, of which there are 200 volumes on the first verse: and to dispute on thousands of ridiculous cases of conscience; it cannot but be allowed that one may pass one's whole life in learning much and knowing nothing.<sup>1</sup> It is vain, as the same author still further remarks, to tell us of colleges, places of education, and books. These words, in the regions of which we are treating, convey not the same ideas as with us.<sup>2</sup> The Turks, though signal, even among rude nations, for their ignorance, are not without speculations of a similar nature, which by superficial observers have been taken for philosophy. "Certain it is," says Sir James Porter, "that there are among the Turks many philosophical minds. They have the whole systems of the Aristotelian and Epicurean philosophy translated into their own language."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Volney's Travels in Egypt and Syria, ii. 434. "In two recent voyages into Egypt," says Gibbon, (Hist. of Decl. and Fall, &c. ix. 448.) "we are amused by Savary, and instructed by Volney. I wish the latter could travel over the globe." "The last and most judicious," he calls him, "of our Syrian travellers." Ibid. p. 224.

<sup>2</sup> Volney, ut Supra, p. 443.

<sup>3</sup> Observations on the Religion, Laws, Government, and Manners of the Turks, p. 39. Most, if not all, the Arabian versions of the Greek authors, were done by the Christian subjects of the caliphs. See Gibbon, ch. III. The same is probably the origin of the Turkish versions. What use, if any, they make of them, does not appear. Mr. Scott Waring says, "The science of the

"The metaphysical questions," says Gibbon, "on the attributes of God, and the liberty of man, have been agitated in the schools of Mahomedans, as well as in those of the Christians."<sup>1</sup> And Mr. Elphinstone informs us, that if the rude Afghauns ever stimulated to any degree of literary activity, it is when pursuing the subtleties of metaphysical speculation.<sup>2</sup>

BOOK II.  
CHAR. IX.

These facts coincide with a curious law of human nature, which some eminent philosophers have already remarked. The highest abstractions are not the last result of mental culture, and intellectual strength; it is discovered, that some of our most general and comprehensive notions are formed at that very early period, when the mind, with little discriminating power, is apt to lump together things which have but few points of resemblance; and that we break down these genera into species more and more minute, in proportion as our knowledge becomes more extensive, more particular, and precise. The propensity to abstract speculations is then the natural result of the state of the human mind in a rude and ignorant age.<sup>3</sup>

Persians is, I believe, extremely confined. They have translations of Euclid, Ptolemy, the works of Plato, Aristotle, Pythagoras, and some other of the Grecian philosophers, which few of them read, and fewer understand." Tour to Sheeraz, p. 254.

<sup>1</sup> Hist. of Decline and Fall, &c. ch. I. Mr. Forster mentions a Mussulman fellow-traveller, a disputant, who, says he, "unhappily for himself, and his neighbours, had conned over some of those books of ingenious devices and quaint syllogisms, which are held in high note among the modern Mahometans, and have fixed among them a false distorted taste." Travels in India, p. 106.

<sup>2</sup> "There is generally a want of ardour in pursuit of knowledge among the Asiatics, which is partaken by the Afghauns; excepting, however, in the sciences of dialectics and metaphysics, in which they take much interest, and have made no contemptible progress." Elphinstone's Account of Cawbul, p. 189.

<sup>3</sup> The clearest accounts I have seen of this important fact, which Mr Dugald Stewart (Elements of the Philosophy of the Human Mind, II. 231), appears not to have known that any body had noticed but M Turgot, is in the following passage of Condillac. "Mais il faut observer, qu'une fois qu'un enfant commence à généraliser, il rend une idée aussi étendue qu'elle peut l'être, c'est-à-dire qu'il se hâte de donner le même nom à tous les objets qui se ressemblent grossièrement, et il les comprend tous dans une seule classe. Les ressemblances sont les premières choses qui le frappent, parce qu'il ne sait pas encore assez analyser pour distinguer les objets par les qualités qui leur sont propres. Il n'imaginera donc des classes moins générales, que lorsqu'il aura appris à observer par où les choses diffèrent. Le mot *homme*, par exemple, est d'abord pour lui une dénomination commune, sous laquelle il comprend indistinctement tous les hommes. Mais lorsque dans la suite il aura occasion de contrôler les différentes conditions, il sera aussitôt les classes subordonnées et moins générales de militaires, de magistrats, de bourgeois, d'artisans, de laboureurs, &c.; il est donc l'ordre de la génération des idées. On passe tout à coup de l'individu au genre, pour descendre ensuite aux différentes

**BOOK II.** The Vedanti doctrine, which has caught the fancy of some of the admirers of Sanscrit, appears to be delivered ————— *vira voce*, and solely in that mode.<sup>1</sup> As no passage implying it has been quoted from any Sanscrit work, it might, if it were any refinement, be suspected of being wholly modern. The following is the account of it by Sir William Jones. "The fundamental tenet of the Vedanti school consisted, not in denying the existence of matter, that is, of solidity, impenetrability, and extended figure (to deny which would be lunacy), but in correcting the popular notion of it, and in contending that it has no essence independent of mental perception, that existence and perceptibility are convertible terms, that external appearances and sensations are illusory, and would vanish into nothing, if the divine energy, which alone sustains them, were suspended but for a moment; an opinion which Epicharmus and Plato seem to have adopted, and which has been maintained in the present century with great elegance, but with little public applause; partly because it has been misunderstood, and partly because it has been misapplied by the false reasoning of some unpopular writers, who are said to have disbelieved in the moral attributes of God, whose omnipresence, wisdom, and goodness, are the basis of the Indian philosophy. I have not sufficient evidence on the subject to profess a belief in the doctrine of the Vedanta, which human reason alone could, perhaps, neither fully demonstrate, nor fully disprove; but it is manifest, that nothing can be further removed from impiety than a system wholly built on the purest devotion."<sup>2</sup>

"In some of these observations," Mr. Dugald Stewart very justly observes, "there is a good deal of indistinctness, and even of contradiction." He also remarks, that Sir William Jones totally misunderstands the doctrine of Berkeley and Hume.<sup>3</sup> We may suspect that he not less

espèces qu'on multiplie d'autant plus qu'on acquiert plus de discernement, c'est-à-dire, qu'on apprend mieux à faire l'analyse des choses." Cours d'Etude, i. 49, 50, Ed. à Parme, 1776. Vide note A. at the end of the volume.

<sup>1</sup> A strange assertion which Ward could have corrected, as he enumerates a long list of Vedanti writings, iv. 172.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Works of Sir Wm. Jones, i. 165. It may be remarked, that Sir William Jones, after all these praises, allows that the Vedanti doctrines are wild and erroneous. Acad. Rev. iv. 161, 165.

<sup>3</sup> Elements of the Philosophy of the Human Mind, vol. II. note B.

widely mistakes the doctrine of the Brahmens, and fastens a theory of his own creation upon the vague and unmeaning jargon which they delivered to him. If in all minds the propensity be strong, and in weak minds irresistible, to see only through the medium of a theory ; we need not wonder if theory manufactures the ideas of the other senses, of hearing, for example, after the same manner. "If the simplest narrative of the most illiterate observer involves more or less of hypothesis ; and a village apothecary or a hackneyed nurse, is seldom able to describe the plainest case, without employing a phraseology of which every word is a theory,"<sup>1</sup> we may conclude with certainty that the same intrusion is very difficult to avoid, in making up our own conception of what we hear, and still more in clothing it with our own language. Of the ideas which we profess to report, and which we believe that we merely report, it often happens that many are our own ideas, and never entered the mind of the man to whom we ascribe them.

We have a more distinct account of the same doctrine from Sir James Macintosh, whose mind is more philosophical, and on oriental subjects less prepossessed and less credulous, than that of Sir William Jones. Presenting, in a letter to Mr. Dugald Stewart, an account of a conversation with a young Brahmen, "He told me," says he, "that besides the myriads of gods whom their creed admits, there was one whom they know by the name of Brim, or the great one, without form or limits, whom no created intellect could make any approach towards conceiving ; that, in reality, there were no trees, no houses, no land, no sea, but all without was Main, or allusion, the act of Brim ; that whatever we saw or felt was only a dream ; or, as he expressed it in his imperfect English, thinking in one's sleep ; and that the re-union of the soul to Brim, from whom it originally sprung, was the awakening from the long sleep of finite existence."<sup>2</sup>

It will require few words, in application of the evidence adduced in the chapter on religion, to make it sufficiently appear, that this is a natural part of that language of

<sup>1</sup> The words in which this important observation is expressed, are borrowed from a happy application of it by Mr. Stewart, in the same volume, p. 443.

<sup>2</sup> The passage is transcribed by Mr. Stewart, in the note quoted above.

**BOOK II.** adulation towards the deity, in which the Hindu theology  
**CHAR. IX.** mainly consists. One of the deities, who is chosen as the chief object of adoration, is first made to excel all the other deities; next to absorb all their powers; next to absorb even themselves; and lastly absorb all things.<sup>1</sup> The fancy of "Maha" is only a part of "the absorption of all things in God." There is nothing but God. All our supposed perception of things besides God is, therefore, only illusion; illusion created by God. Why, then, does God create such an illusion? This is a very necessary question. If it were put; and why it has not been put, we may a little admire; the Brahmens might very consistently reply, that as for a use, a design, a purpose, in the actions of their God, they never thought of ascribing to them any such quality. He pleases himself by his actions, and that is enough; no matter how fantastic the taste. It is with great pleasure I quote the following coincidence with my own opinion, expressed in a subsequent passage of the same letter. "I intend to investigate a little the history of these opinions; for I am not altogether without apprehension, that we may all the while be mistaking the hyperbolical effusions of mystical piety for the technical language of a philosophical system. Nothing is more usual, than for fervent devotion to dwell so long, and so warmly, on the meanness and worthlessness of created things, and on the all-sufficiency of the Supreme Being, that it slides insensibly from comparative to absolute language, and, in the eagerness of its zeal to magnify the Deity, seems to *annihilate* everything else. To distinguish between the very different import of the same words in the mouth of a mystic and sceptic, requires more philosophical discrimination than most of our Sanscrit investigators have hitherto shown."<sup>2</sup>.

Sir James might have passed beyond a suspicion; if from nothing else, from the very words of the conversation he reports. Human life is there not *compared* to a sleep; it is literally affirmed to *be* a sleep; and men are not acting, or thinking, but only dreaming. Of what philosophical system does this form a part? We awake, only when we are re-united to the Divine Being; that is, when

<sup>1</sup> Vide supra, vol. i. p. 256.

<sup>2</sup> Stewart's Elem. ut supra.

we actually become a part of the Divine Being, not having a separate existence. Then, of course, we cease to dream ; and then, it may be supposed, that Maia ceases. Then will there be anything to be known ? anything real ? Or is it the same thing, whether we are awake or asleep ? But my reader might well complain I was only trifling with him, if I pursued this jargon any further. What grieves me is, that between the two passages which I have immediately quoted, Sir James (we must remember that it is in the negligence of private correspondence) has inserted the following words. "All this you have heard and read before as Hindu speculation. What struck me was, that speculations so refined and abstruse should, in a long course of ages, have fallen through so great a space as that which separates the genius of their original inventor from the mind of this weak and unlettered man. The names of these inventors have perished ; but their ingenious and beautiful theories, blended with the most monstrous superstitions, have descended to men very little exalted above the most ignorant populace, and are adopted by them as a sort of articles of faith, without a suspicion of their philosophical origin, and without the possibility of comprehending any part of the premises from which they were deduced." Yet Sir James himself has described the origin from which they were deduced ; namely, "the hyperbolical effusions of mystical piety ;" and surely the Brahmens of the present day may understand these effusions as well as their still more ignorant predecessors.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Another circumstance is always to be remembered. If the Brahmens are once informed of the European doctrine, they will take abundant care to make their own conform to it. "With respect to the real tenets of the Hindus on subjects of theology, they are to be taken from their ancient books, rather than from the oral declarations of the most learned Brahmens of modern times, who have discovered that the opinions of Christians, concerning the nature of God, are far more rational than those currently entertained among them, and that the gross idolatry of the Hindus is contemned by the more intelligent natives of the western world. Bernier seems to have found occasion for the same remark in his time ; for, after relating a conference between him and some learned pandits, in which the latter endeavoured to refine away the grossness of their image worship, 'Voilà (says he) sans ajouter ni diminuer, la solution qu'ils me donnerent ; mais, à vous dire le vrai, cela me sembloit un peu trop bien concerté à la Chrétienne, aux prix de ce que j'en avois appris de plusieurs autres pandits.' " (Grant's Observations on the State of Society among the Asiatic Subjects of Great Britain, p. 73. Papers on India, ordered to be printed by the House of Commons, 16th June, 1813.) This supposed refinement, such as it is, Mr. Elphinstone found among the rude and uncivilized Afghans. "Another sect in Caubul is that of the Soofees, who ought, perhaps, to be considered as a class of philosophers, rather than of religionists.

**BOOK II.** With respect to morals or duty, it appears not that any theory has ever been constructed by the Hindus. In what **CHAP. IX.** regards the preceptive part, their ethics exactly resemble those of all other rude and uninstructed nations; an excellent precept, and a foolish or absurd one, are placed alternately, or mixed in nearly equal proportions, in all their books which treat upon the subject. For specimens of their ethical precepts, it is sufficient to refer to what we have already produced under the head of religion. If all the good precepts were selected from the rest, and exhibited pure by themselves, they would present a tolerably perfect code of the common duties of morality. As we have authors who have attached importance to this, without adverting to the fact that a soundness in detached maxims of morality is common to all men down to the lowest stage of society, it is necessary to give a specimen of the ethical rules of nations confessedly barbarous. We might, perhaps, be satisfied with a reference to the proverbs of Solomon, and other preceptive parts of the Jewish writings, which are not equalled by the corresponding parts of the books of the Hindus. We shall, however, produce another instance, which is less exposed to any objection. The Havamaal or sublime discourse of Odin, is a Scandinavian composition of great antiquity. It is a string of moral aphorisms, comprised in 120 stanzas; with which, as a

As far as I can understand their mysterious doctrine, their leading tenet seems to be, that the whole of the animated and inanimate creation is an illusion; and that nothing exists except the Supreme Being, which presents itself under an infinity of shapes to the soul of man, itself a portion of the Divine essence. The contemplation of this doctrine raises the Soofees to the utmost pitch of enthusiasm. They admire God in everything; and, by frequent meditation on his attributes, and by tracing him through all his forms, they imagine that they attain to an ineffable love for the Deity, and even to an entire union with his substance." (An Account of the Kingdom of Caubul, by the Hon. Mount-stuart Elphinstone, p. 207.) See, for an account of a similar sect in Persia, Malcolm's Hist. of Persia, II. 335.—How different is all this from the curious result of the refined and ingenious reasoning of Berkeley! And how shallow the heads that confound them!—M.

The whole of what is here said on the subject of the Vedanta doctrine, as founded on the brief notice of Sir Wm. Jones, and a private letter of Sir James Mackintosh, is necessarily imperfect and erroneous. The conclusion, too, is the reverse of what any one else would have drawn from the authorities cited, one of whom speaks of the Vedanta doctrine as built on the purest devotion; and the other calls the theory refined, abstruse, ingenious, and beautiful. As they are the sole authority for the premises, their conclusions are of equal weight. The Vedanta system has been since fully explained by Mr. Colebrooke, Dr. Taylor, Ram Mohun Roy, Sir Graves Haughton, Colonel Vans Kennedy. Trans. R. A. Society. Translation of the Prabodha Chandrodaya. Translations from the Vedas. Asiatic Journal, etc.—W.

whole, there is nothing in Hindu literature in any degree worthy to be compared. The following is a specimen:

BOOK II.  
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"To the guest who enters your dwelling with frozen knees, give the warmth of your fire: he who hath travelled over the mountains hath need of food and well-dried garments:

"A man can carry with him no better provision for his journey than the strength of his understanding. In a foreign country this will be of more use to him than treasures; and will introduce him to the table of strangers:

"There is nothing more useless to the sons of the age than to drink too much ale; the more the drunkard swallows, the less is his wisdom, till he loses his reason. The bird of oblivion sings before those who inebriate themselves, and steals away their souls:

"I have never yet found a man so generous and munificent, as that to receive at his house was not to receive; nor any so liberal of his gifts as to reject a present when it was returned to him:

"They invite me up and down to feasts, if I have only need of a slight breakfast; my faithful friend is he who will give me one loaf when he has but two:

"Where is there to be found a virtuous man without some failing; or one so wicked as to have no good quality?"<sup>1</sup>

Among the parts of Hindu learning chosen by its admirers as the peculiar objects of their applause, are the niceties, the numerous and intricate subtleties, of the Hindu grammar. We are informed by an eminent Sanscrit scholar, that the grammatical precepts of one single treatise are no fewer than 3996. The reader will observe, that this number is composed of the digit 3 and its multiples, to which peculiar virtues are ascribed by the Hindus. It is not improbable that the rules may have been made to correspond with the number, rather than the number with the rules. Nevertheless, we learn from Mr. Colebrooke, that "those rules are framed with the utmost conciseness, the consequence of very ingenious methods." But it is added, that the studied brevity of the Paniniya Sutras renders them in the highest degree obscure; that even with the knowledge of the key to their interpretation, the student finds them ambiguous;

<sup>1</sup> See Mallet, Introd. Hist. Denmark, vol. ii. For additional illustrations we may refer to the maxims of Confucius and Zoroaster.

BOOK II. that the application of them, even when understood, discloses many seeming contradictions: and that, with every exertion of practised memory, the utmost difficulty is experienced in combining rules dispersed in apparent confusion through different portions of Paninis and lectures. The number of commentaries on the books of grammar is exceedingly great, and many of them very voluminous.”<sup>1</sup>

As these endless conceits answer any purpose rather than that of rendering language a more commodious and accurate instrument of communication, they afford a remarkable specimen of the spirit of a rude and ignorant age: which is as much delighted with the juggleries of the mind, as it is with those of the body, and is distinguished by the absurdity of its passion for both.<sup>2</sup> It could not happen otherwise than that the Hindus should, beyond other nations, abound in those frivolous refinements which are suited to the taste of an uncivilised people. A whole race of men were set apart and exempted from the ordinary cares and labours of life, whom the pain of vacuity forced upon some application of mind, and who were under the necessity of maintaining their influence among the people, by the credit of superior learning, and if not by real knowledge, which is slowly and with much difficulty attained, by artful contrivances for deceiving the people with the semblance of it. This view of the situation of the Brahmens serves to explain many things which modify and colour Hindu society. In grammatical niceties, however, the Hindus but discover their usual resemblance to other nations in the infancy of knowledge and improvement. We have already seen that the Arabians on this subject carry their complex refinements to a height scarcely inferior to that of the Brahmens themselves.<sup>3</sup> Even the Turks, who are not in general a refining race, multiply conceits on this subject.<sup>4</sup> During the dark ages the fabrication of grammatical distinctions and subtleties furnished a favourite exercise to the European schoolmen.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Colebrooke on the Sanscrit and Pracrit Languages, *Asiat. Res.* vol. vii.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Colebrooke still further remarks, that the Hindus delight in scholastic disputation; and that their controversial commentaries on grammar exhibit copious specimens of it.—*Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Vide supra*, p. 53—55.

<sup>4</sup> Tout ce que le mauvais goût peut inventer pour fatiguer l'esprit, fait leur délices, et ravit leur admiration. *Mémoires du Baron de Tott sur les Turcs et les Tartares*, 1. 8.

<sup>5</sup> The following remarkable passage in the celebrated letter of our countryman, and (but for one exception) admirable countryman, Sir Thomas More, to

Not only the grammar; the language itself has been celebrated as the mark of a refined and elegant people. "It is more copious," we are told, "than the Latin. It has several words to express the same thing. The sun has more than thirty names, the moon more than twenty. A house has twenty; a stone, six or seven; a tree, ten; a leaf, five; an ape, ten; a crow, nine."<sup>1</sup>

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That which is a defect and deformity in language is thus celebrated as a perfection.<sup>2</sup> The highest merit of language would consist in having one name for every thing which

Martin Dorpius<sup>3</sup>, affords at once a proof of the fact, and a judgment on the practice: "At nunc absurdia quædam portenta, ad certam bonarum artium nata pernicie, et luculentæ ab antiquis distincta, commiscerunt; et veterum purissimæ traditiones suis adjectis sordibus infecerunt omnia. Nam in Grammatica (ut omittam Alexandrum, atque id genus alios; qui quamquam imperito, tamen grammaticam uterunque docuerunt) Albertus quidam, grammaticam se traditum professor, logicam nobis quondam, aut metaphysicam, immo neutram, sed mera somnia, mera deliria grammaticæ loco substituit: et tamen hæc nugaciæmæ nubo in publicas academias non tantum receptæ sunt, sed etiam plenisque tam impenso placuerunt, ut is propemodum solus aliquid in grammatica valere censeatur, quisquis fuerit Albertistæ nomen assequutus. Tantum auctoritatis habet, ad pervertenda bonorum quoque ingeniorum judicia, semel ubi inepti traditi, magistris, deinceps tempore corroborata persuasio. Quo fit ut inlatus mirer, et cunctem modum in dialectice locam nugas plus quam sophisticas irrepuisse que cultoribus suis argutiarum nomine tam vehementer, arrident." Caramuel says of the subtle doctor, Scotus, *Vix alibi subtillus scriptit quam cum de grammaticis modis significandi*. Mr. Horne Tooke, however, on this, remarks, that his *De modis significandi* should be entitled, An Exemplar of the subtle art of saving appearances, and of discoursing deeply and learnedly on a subject with which we are perfectly unacquainted. *Quid enim subtillus vel magis tenue quam quod nihil est?* (Diversions of Purley, Introd. p. 12.)

<sup>1</sup> Le Père Paollino (Bartolomeo) *Voyage aux Indes*, II. 201.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Gibbon quaintly says, "In Arabia as well as in Greece, the *perfection* of language outstripped the refinement of manners; and her speech could diversify the fourscore names of honey, the two hundred of a serpent, the five hundred of a lion, the thousand of a sword, at a time when this copious dictionary was intrusted to the memory of an illiterate people." Hist. of Decl. and Fall, etc. ix. 240. The German Professor Foster, who writes notes on the *Voyage du Père Paollino*, says not ineptly on the passage quoted in the text (Paollino, Voy. aux Indes, III. 399), "Ce n'est pas de cetto maniere-là qu'on doit Juger de la richesse d'une langue. On a coutume de dire que la langue Arabe est riche, parce qu'ello a je ne sais quel nombre de synonymes pour exprimer le mot épée. Un de ces synonymes, par exemple, signifie le meurtrier des hommes. Ce n'est là, dans la réalité, qu'une expression métaphorique et figurée, telle qu'on en peut former dans toutes les langues tant soit peu cultivées. On pouvait do même trouver plus de trente noms pour exprimer le soleil dans les poëtes Grecs; mais il n'est venu dans l'esprit de personne, de faire valoir cela pour prouver la richesse de la langue Grecque." Our own sagacious, and, in many respects, highly philosophical, Wilkins judges better when he names "*significancy, perspicuity, brevity*, and, consequently, *facility*," among the *perfections* of a language; and says that the multitude of rules in the Latin "argues the imperfection of that language, that it should stand in need of such and so many rules as have no foundation in the philosophy of speech. . . . If these rules be not *necessary* to language, and according to nature, but that words may signify sufficiently, and, in some respects, better without them, then there is greater judgment showed in laying them aside, or framing a language without them." *Essay towards a Real Character*,

**BOOK II.** required a name, and no more than one.<sup>1</sup> Redundancy is  
**CHAP. IX.** a defect in language, not less than deficiency. Philosophy,  
 and even common good sense, determine that every thing  
 which can simplify language, without impairing it in point  
 of precision and completeness, is a first-rate advantage. An  
 ignorant and fantastical age deems it a glory to render it in  
 the highest degree perplexing and difficult.

The other perfections which are ascribed to the Sanscrit, are its softness, or agreeableness in point of sound, and its adaptation to poetry. Of its completeness or precision, those who were the fullest of admiration for it, were too little acquainted with it to be able to venture an opinion. Yet completeness and precision would have been undeniable proofs of the mental perfection of the people by whom it was used; while a great multitude of useless words and grammatical rules were the very reverse. Nothing is more probable than that a language which has too many words of one description, has too few of another, and unites in equal degree the vices of superfluity and defect.<sup>2</sup> The adaptation of a language to poetry and the ear affords no evidence of civilisation. Languages, on which equal eulogies are bestowed to any which can be lavished on Sanscrit, are the languages confessedly of ignorant and uncivilised men. Nothing can surpass the admiration which is often expressed of the language of the modern Persians. Molina, the intelligent and philosophical historian of Chili, informs us, that of the language of the Chilians the grammar is as perfect as that of the Greek or Latin; that of no language does the formation and structure display greater ingenuity and feli-

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etc. p. 448. Another writer, who speaks with as much boldness as he thinks with force on the subject of language, says, "Persons too dull or too idle to understand the subject, cannot, or will not, perceive how great an evil *many words* is; and boast of their *copiae verborum*, as if a person diseased with gout or dropsy boasted of his great joints, or big belly." And again, "It cannot be too often repeated, that superfluous *variety* and *copia* are faults, not excellencies. Simplicity may be considered poverty by perverted understandings, but it is always of great utility; and to true Judges it always possesses beauty and dignity." Philosophic Etymology, or Rational Grammar, by James Gilchrist, p. 110, 170. "If the Sanscrit is to be admired for its ampler grammar, the Ethiopic should be admired for its 202 letters." Wilkins' Essay towards a Real Character, p. 14.

<sup>1</sup> What would become of poetry, of eloquence, of literature, of intellect, if language was thus aborn of all that gives it beauty, variety, grace, and vigour? —W.

<sup>2</sup> This is a gratuitous assumption in the case of the Sanscrit language. One of its merits is not here adverted to; its subservience to a sound theory of general philology and the affinities of languages.—W.

city.<sup>1</sup> The language of the Malays is described as remarkably sweet, and well adapted to poetry.<sup>2</sup> Clavigero knows not where to set a limit to his admiration of the Mexican tongue.<sup>3</sup> "Many extravagant things have been advanced concerning the great antiquity and superior excellency of the Anglo-Saxon language. According to some writers, it was the most ancient and most excellent in the world, spoken by the first parents of mankind in Paradise; and from it they pretend to derive the names, Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, and all the antediluvian patriarchs."<sup>4</sup>

The same sacred volume which affords the most authentic materials for ascertaining the Hindu modes of accounting for the phenomena of mind, lends equal assistance in leading us to a knowledge of their modes of accounting for

<sup>1</sup> "Gli indigeni Chilesi formano una sola nazione divisa in varie tribù, e tutti hanno la medesima fisconomia, e la medesima lingua chiamata da loro *Chiledugu*, che vuol dire lingua Chilese. Questa lingua è dolce, armoniosa, espressiva, regolare, e copiosissima di termini fatti ad enunciare non solo le cose fisiche generali, o particolari, ma anche le cose morali, e astratte." Saggio Sulla Storia Naturale del Chili Del Signor Abato Giovanni Ignazio Molina, lib. iv. p. 334.

<sup>2</sup> Marsden's Hist. of Sumatra, p. 197, ed. 3rd.

<sup>3</sup> "It is so copious, polished, and expressive, that it has been esteemed by many superior to the Latin, and even to the Greek. It abounds," says he, "more than the Tuscan, in diminutives and augmentatives; and more than the English, or any other language we know, in verbal and abstract terms: for there is hardly a verb from which there are not many verbs formed, and scarcely a substantive or adjective from which there are not some abstracts formed. It is not less copious in verbs than in nouns; as from every single verb others are derived of different significations. *Chihua* "is to do;" *Chichihua*, "to do with diligence or often;" *Chihuilia*, "to do to another;" *Chihuaultia*, "to cause to be done;" *Chihuaultiuh*, "to go to do;" *Chihuaco*, "to come to do;" *Chiuhtiuh*, "to be doing," etc. Having mentioned the extraordinary variety with which the Mexicans express different degrees of respect, by adding adverbs and other particles to the names employed, Clavigero adds, "This variety, which gives so much civilization to the language, does not, however, make it difficult to be spoken, because it is subjected to rules which are fixed and easy; nor do we know any language that is more regular and methodical. The Mexicans, like the Greeks and other nations, have the advantage of making compounds of two, three, or four simple words; but they do it with more economy than the Greeks did; for the Greeks made use of the entire words in composition, whereas the Mexicans cut off syllables, or at least some letters from them. *Tlazotti* signifies valued, or beloved; *Mahuitzic*, honoured or revered; *Tespixqui*, priest; *Tatli*, father. To unite these five words in one, they take eight consonants and four vowels, and say, for instance, *Notlazomahuitzleopixcatlatrin*, that is, *my very worthy father*, or *revered priest*, prefixing the *No*, which corresponds to the pronoun *my*, and adding *tzin*, which is a particle expressive of reverence. There are some compounds of so many terms, as to have fifteen or sixteen syllables.....In short, all those who have learned this language, and can judge of its copiousness, regularity, and beautiful modes of speech, are of opinion, that such a language cannot have been spoken by a barbarous people." Clavigero, Hist. of Mexico, book vii. sect. 41.

<sup>4</sup> Henry's Hist. of Great Britain, iv. 365.—"I know not a language spoken in Europe that hath words of more sweetness and greatness than theirs." Penn's Letter on the American Indians, in Clarkson's Life of Penn, i. 335.

**BOOK II.** the phenomena of matter. "At the close of the night of  
**CHAR. IX.** Brahma, "intellect, called into action by his will to create  
 worlds, performed again the work of creation; and thence  
 first emerges the subtle ether, to which philosophers ascribe  
 the quality of conveying sound."<sup>1</sup> Ignorant that air is the  
 great agent in the conveyance of sound, the Hindus had  
 recourse to a fiction; the imagination of a something, of  
 whose existence they had no proof. Equally futile is their  
 account of air. "From ether, effecting a transmutation in  
 form, springs the pure and potent air, a vehicle of all scents;  
 and air is held endued with the quality of touch."<sup>2</sup> The  
 word touch is here ambiguous; it may mean either that  
 air is tangible, or that it has the faculty, the sense of touch.  
 The latter, I suspect, is the meaning of the original; for I  
 can hardly credit that so great a master of language as Sir  
 William Jones, would have explained a passage which only  
 meant that air is tangible, by so exceptionable a term as  
 that it is endued with the quality of touch. I can with  
 less difficulty suppose, from other instances, that he endeavoured  
 to cloak a most absurd idea under an equivocal  
 translation.

With respect to light and heat, we are told in the immediately succeeding passage; "Then from air, operating a change, rises light or fire, making objects visible, spreading bright rays. and it is declared to have the quality of figure."<sup>3</sup> It sufficiently appears from these several passages, that the accounts with which they satisfy themselves, are merely such random guesses as would occur to the most vulgar and untutored minds. From intellect rose ether: from ether, air; from air, fire and light. It appears from this passage that they consider light and heat as absolutely the same: yet the moon afforded them an instance of light without heat; and they had instances innumerable of heat without the presence of light. What is the meaning, when it is declared that fire, alias light has the quality of figure, it is impossible to say. That fire, or, which is the same thing, light, is itself figured, is an affirmation wherein little meaning can be found. That fire, that is, light, is the *cause* of figure in all figured bodies, is an affirmation which, notwithstanding the absurdity, is in exact harmony with the

<sup>1</sup> Laws of Menu, ch. 1. 75.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 76.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 77.

mode of guessing at the operations of nature, admired as BOOK II.  
philosophy among the Hindus. CHAP. IX.

The account of water and earth is a link of the same chain. "From light, a change being effected, comes water with the quality of taste; and from water is deposited earth with the quality of smell."<sup>1</sup> As from ether came air, so from air light, from light water, and from water earth. It is useless to ask what connexion appears between water and light, or earth and water. Connexion, reason, probability, had nothing to do with the case. A theory of successive production struck the fancy of the writer, and all inquiry was out of the question. Here occurs the same difficulty as in the case of air; air was endowed with the quality of touch; water and earth are said to have the qualities of smell and taste. In this we perceive a most fantastic conceit: To water is ascribed the quality of taste; to earth the quality of smell; to fire, the quality of *figure*, (I suspect it should be translated *sight*); to air, the quality of touch; and to ether, the quality (as Sir William Jones translates it) of conveying sound; I suspect it *should* be translated, the quality of hearing.<sup>2</sup>

We have thus seen the speculations respecting the origin and qualities of the principal parts of inanimate nature.

<sup>1</sup> Laws of Manu, ch. I. 78.

<sup>2</sup> It is not easy to apprehend the force of the technical terms of a system with which we are imperfectly acquainted, and it is still more impossible to express their import in a foreign language in which no precise equivalents for the originals exist. We need not wonder, therefore, that the author sees nothing but absurdity in the imperfectly detailed evolution of the elements and their properties, although as far as relates to the connexion between the elements and their properties there is nothing irrational or absurd in the scheme. The Hindus early adopted the doctrine that there is no vacuum in nature, but observing that air was excluded under various circumstances from space, they devised, in order to account for the separation of particles, a subtle element or ether, by which all interstices, the most minute and inaccessible, were pervaded, a notion which modern philosophy intimates some tendency to adopt, as regards the planetary movements; and it was to this subtle element that they ascribed the property of conveying sound: in which they were so far right that in *vacuo* there can be no sound. Air, again, is said to be possessed of the faculty of touch, that is, it is the medium through which the contact of bodies is effected—ether keeps them apart—air impels them together. Fire, or rather light, has the property of figure. Mr. Colebrooke renders it of colour; in either case the theory is true, for neither colour nor form is discernible except through the medium of light. Water has the property of taste, an affirmation perfectly true, for nothing is sensible to the palate until it is dissolved by the natural fluids. The presence of odour as a property of earth, is less intelligible, but the notion was probably derived from observation of the fragrance of the vegetable world, which was assigned to the soil on which the flowers bloomed. That these views are open to philosophical objections is perfectly true, but they are not fantastic, not random guesses, they are founded on observation, and are not devoid of rationality.—W.

## HISTORY OF BRITISH INDIA.

to divine volume affords us a specimen of their  
ing the origin of at least one great depart-  
of animated nature. "From hot moisture are born  
gnats, lice, fleas, and common flies; these, and what-  
ever is of the same class, are produced by heat."<sup>1</sup> If this  
be an idea natural enough to the mind of an uncultivated  
observer, it is at least not a peculiar proof of learning and  
civilisation.

Of the arbitrary style of deciding without inquiry, the  
natural and ordinary style of all rude minds, a curious spec-  
imen is afforded by the Hindu dogma, that vegetables, as  
well as animals, "have internal consciousness, and are  
sensible of pleasure and pain."<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Wilford, the industrious explorer of the literature of  
this ancient people, informs us: "The Hindus were super-  
ficial botanists, and gave the same appellation to plants of  
different classes."<sup>3</sup> To arrange or classify,<sup>4</sup> on this or any  
other subject, seems an attempt which has in all ages  
exceeded the mental culture of the Hindus.

Of all circumstances, however, connected with the state  
of Hindu society, nothing has called forth higher expres-  
sions of eulogy and admiration than the astronomy of the  
Brahmens. Mons. Bailly, the celebrated author of the  
History of Astronomy, may be regarded as beginning the  
concert of praises, upon this branch of the science of the  
Hindus. The grounds of his conclusions were certain  
astronomical tables; from which he inferred, not only ad-  
vanced progress in the science, but a date so ancient as to  
be entirely inconsistent with the chronology of the He-  
brew Scriptures. The man who invented a theory of an  
ancient and highly civilized people, now extinct, formerly  
existing in the wilds of Tartary, and who maintained it  
with uncommon zeal, and all the efforts of his ingenuity,  
is not to be trusted as a guide in the regions of conjecture.  
Another cause of great distrust attaches to Mons. Bailly.  
Voltaire, and other excellent writers in France, abhorring  
the evils which they saw attached to catholicism, laboured

<sup>1</sup> Laws of Menu, ch. i. 45.      <sup>2</sup> Ibid. 49. See also Ibid. xi. 143 to 146.

<sup>3</sup> Wilford on Egypt and the Nile. *Asiat. Res.* iii. 310.

<sup>4</sup> The Hindus were certainly unacquainted with either the Linnæan  
or natural orders, but they were careful observers both of the external  
and internal properties of plants, and furnish copious lists of the vegetable  
world, with sensible notices of their uses, and names significant of their pecu-  
liarities.—W.

to subvert the authority of the books on which it was founded. Under this impulse, they embraced, with extreme credulity, and actual enthusiasm, the tales respecting the great antiquity of the Chinese and Hindus as disproving, entirely, the Mosaic accounts of the duration of the present race of men. When a case occurred, in which it appeared that this favourite conclusion could be established on the strength of astronomical observations and mathematical reasoning, the great object seemed to be accomplished. The argument was laboured with the utmost diligence by Mons. Bailly, was received with unbounded applause, and for a time regarded as a demonstration in form of the falsehood of Christianity.

The most eminent of all the mathematical converts, gained by Mons. Bailly, was Mr. Playfair, the professor of mathematics in the University of Edinburgh. A bias was probably created in his mind by the high reputation of Mons. Bailly for his attainments in that science in which Mr. Playfair himself was so great a master ; and any feeling of that nature could not fail to be greatly strengthened, by the loud applause, in which his countrymen, both those who were still in India, and those who had returned from it, at that time concurred, of the wonderful learning, wonderful civilization, and wonderful institutions of the Hindus ; applause which imposed implicit belief on minds such as that of his illustrious colleague, the author of the Historical Disquisition concerning the knowledge which the ancients had of India. In a paper published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Mr. Playfair stated, with skill and dexterity, the matter of evidence on which the proposition is founded;<sup>1</sup> and in an article lately published in the Edinburgh Review,<sup>2</sup> the arguments are controverted by which Mr. Bentley had endeavoured to overthrow his opinion ; but a suspension of belief, till further information shall yield more satisfactory proof, is all that in this latter document is contended for.

Such a demand, however, is infinitely too much, and at variance with all the principles of reasoning. When an opinion is obviously contradicted by a grand train of cir-

<sup>1</sup> Transactions of the Royal Society of Edin. vol. ii

<sup>2</sup> Of which he has over all Europe been recognised as the author ; Vide infra, p. 105, note 1.

**BOOK II.** cumstances, and is not *entirely* supported by the special  
**CHAP. IX.** proof on which it pretends to rest, it is unproved; and  
— whatever is unproved, and out of the known order of na-  
ture, is altogether unworthy of belief; deserves simple re-  
jection.

Whoever, in the present improved state of our know-  
ledge, shall take the trouble to contemplate the proof  
which we possess of the state of knowledge and civiliza-  
tion among the Hindus, can form no other conclusion, but  
that everything (unless astronomy be an exception) bears  
clear, concurring, and undeniable testimony to the igno-  
rance of the Hindus, and the low state of civilization in  
which they remain. That such a people are masters of  
the science of astronomy to a degree which none but na-  
tions highly cultivated have elsewhere ever attained, is  
certainly not to be credited on any chain of proof that is  
not entire.<sup>1</sup>

Of the fitness of the proof to maintain any such con-  
clusions as have been founded upon it, an idea may be  
formed from this; that Mr. Bentley, who had paid great  
attention to the books of Hindu astronomy, says they are  
all of modern date, and their pretensions to antiquity,  
founded only on forgery.<sup>2</sup> As his moderate knowledge of  
mathematics, however, and even the inelegancies of his  
style, have been sarcastically employed to throw discredit  
upon his conclusions, it is of importance to add that the  
two mathematicians whose reputation for profundity seems  
to exceed that of their contemporaries, Laplace, and an  
eminent ornament of our country, not only reject the in-  
ference of the great antiquity and perfection of the Hindu

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Playfair has himself given us a criterion for determining on his notions of the Hindu astronomy, which is perfectly sufficient. He says, in the con-  
clusions of his discourse (Edin. Trans. ii. 192), "These conclusions are without  
doubt extraordinary; and have no other claim to our belief, except that their  
being false were much more wonderful than their being true." On this prin-  
ciple, the question is decided: for the wonder is little that they should be  
false, but mighty indeed were they true.

<sup>2</sup> Asiat. Res. vi. 577.—M. As presently mentioned, Mr. Bentley had but a  
moderate knowledge of mathematics. He had a still more moderate know-  
ledge of Sanscrit, and was quite incapable of forming an opinion of the authen-  
ticity of Sanscrit writings, upon an accurate estimate of their contents. His  
notion that the astronomical works of the Hindus were all forgeries, was  
founded entirely upon prejudice, not upon inquiry. Having known him  
personally, the writer had various opportunities of appreciating his char-  
acter, in this respect. Hindu forgery, was the engrossing idea of his mind,  
with which it was vain to argue, as it was the progeny of passion, not of  
reason.—W.

astronomy, but from the evidence offered, draw a conclusion directly the reverse; viz., that this science is in the very same state of infancy among the Hindus with all the other branches of knowledge. The Surya Sidhanta is the great repository of the astronomical knowledge of the Hindus. It is on the authority of our own countryman<sup>1</sup> I am enabled to declare, that this book is itself the most satisfactory of all proofs of the low state of the science among the Hindus, and the rudeness of the people from whom it proceeds; that its fantastic absurdity is truly Hindu; that all we can learn from it are a few facts, the result of observations which required no skill; that its vague allegories and fanciful reflections prove nothing, or everything; that a resolute admirer may build upon them all the astronomical science of modern times; but a man who should divest his mind of the recollection of European discoveries, and ask what a people unacquainted with the science could learn from the Surya Sidhanta, would find it next to nothing.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> No weight can be attached to an anonymous authority; what means has he had of forming an estimate of the Surya Siddhanta? The translation of a standard work on Hindu astronomy, is much wanted, to determine accurately the extent of their science. The conclusions founded on partial extracts from astronomical works, and dissertations, having certain circumscribed purposes, are necessarily imperfect, and are probably, in many respects, erroneous.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Smith, with his usual sagacity, says, "There are various causes which render astronomy the very first of the sciences which is cultivated by a rude people: though from the distance of the objects, and the consequent mysteriousness of their nature and motions, this would seem not to be the case. Of all the phenomena of nature, the celestial appearances are, by their greatness and beauty, the most strikingly addressed to the curiosity of mankind. But it is not only their greatness and beauty by which they become the first objects of a speculative curiosity. The species of objects in the heavens are few in number; the sun, the moon, the planets, and the fixed stars. All the changes, too, which are ever observed in these bodies, evidently arise from some difference in the velocity and direction of their several motions. All this formed a very simple object of consideration. The objects, however, which the inferior parts of nature presented to view, the earth and the bodies which immediately surround it, though they were much more familiar to the mind, were more apt to embarrass and perplex it, by the variety of their species, and by the intricacy and seeming irregularity of the laws or orders of their succession. The variety of meteors in the air, of clouds, rainbows, thunder, lightning, winds, rain, hail, snow, is vast, and the order of their succession seems to be most irregular and inconstant. The species of fossils, minerals, plants, animals, which are found in the waters and near the surface of the earth, are still more intricately diversified; and if we regard the different manners of their production, their mutual influence in altering, destroying, supporting one another, the orders of their succession seem to admit of an almost infinite variety. If the imagination, therefore, when it considered the appearances in the heavens, was often perplexed and driven out of its natural career, it would be much more exposed to the same embarrassment, when it directed its attention to the objects which the earth presented to it, and when it endeavoured to trace their progress and

**BOOK II.** The Hindu astronomy is possessed of very considerable accuracy in regard to the mean motions. In other respects, it has no pretensions to correctness or refinement. **CHAP. IX.** Astronomy may acquire great accuracy in regard to the mean motions, without the help of any nice or delicate observations; and while the science can hardly be said to exist. If there is every reason to believe, and none whatsoever to disbelieve, that the mean motions of the Hindu astronomy have been gradually corrected in the same manner in which the calendars of ancient nations have been improved, the legitimate conclusion cannot be mistaken.

As far as a conclusion can be drawn respecting the state of astronomy among the Hindus, from the state of their instruments of observation (and an analogy might be expected between those closely connected circumstances,) the inference entirely corresponds with what the other circumstances in the condition of the Hindus have a tendency to establish. The observatory at Benares, the great seat of Hindu astronomy and learning was found to be rude in structure, and the instruments with which it was provided of the coarsest contrivance and construction.

Even Mr. Playfair himself observes that "regular observations began to be made in Chaldea with the era of Nabonassar ; the earliest which have merited the attention of succeeding ages." The observation which he next presents is truly philosophical and important. "The curiosity of the Greeks," says he, "was, soon after, directed to the same object ; and that ingenious people was the first that endeavoured to explain or connect, by theory, the various phenomena of the heavens."<sup>1</sup> This was an

successive revolutions." Essays by Dr. Adam Smith, p. 97, 98. Of the Persians, Mr. Scott Waring says, "Their perverse predilection for judicial astrology excites them to the study of astronomy, merely that they may foretell the conjunction of the planets; and when they are able to do this with any degree of accuracy, they are accounted men of considerable science. They have two descriptions of Ephemeris; the first containing the conjunction and opposition of the luminaries; and the second the eclipses, the longitude and latitude of the stars," &c. Tour to Sheeraz, p. 254. The pages of the historian being little adapted to mathematical and astronomical discussion, I have inserted, by way of Appendix, an examination of the arguments for the antiquity and excellence of the Hindu astronomy; with which the friendship of the great mathematician to whom I have alluded has enabled me to elucidate the subject. See Append. No. 1, at the end of the chapter.

<sup>1</sup> Playfair on the Astronomy of the Brahmens. Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin. II. 135.

important step; all that preceded was mere observation and empiricism, not even the commencement of science,<sup>1</sup> BOOK II. and satisfies itself with the calculation of certain changes in CHAR. IX. the heavens, particularly of the eclipses of the sun and moon, and with the rules and tables by which these calculations must be performed. The Brahmen, seating himself on the ground, and arranging his shells before him, repeats the enigmatical verses that are to guide his calculation, and from his little tablets and palm-leaves, takes out the numbers that are to be employed in it. He obtains his result with wonderful certainty and expedition; but having little knowledge of the principles on which his rules are founded, and no anxiety to be better informed, he is perfectly satisfied if, as it usually happens, the commencement and duration of the eclipse answer, within a few minutes, to his prediction. Beyond this, his astronomical inquiries never extend; and his observations, when he makes any, go no further than to determine the meridian line, or the length of the day at the place where he observes."<sup>2</sup>

Scarcely can there be drawn a stronger picture than this of the rude and infant state of astronomy. The Brahmen, making his calculation by shells, is an exact resemblance of the rude American performing the same operation by knots on a string; and both of them exhibit a practice which then only prevails; either when the more ingenious and commodious method of ciphering, or accounting by written signs, is unknown; or when the human mind is too rude and too weak to break through the force of an inveterate custom.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Smith says, "Nature, according to common observation, appears a chaos of jarring and discordant appearances, into which philosophy endeavours to introduce order by representing the invisible chains which bind together all these disjointed objects. It thus soothes the imagination, and renders the theatre of nature a more coherent, and therefore a more magnificent spectacle, than otherwise it would appear to be. Mankind in the first ages of society have little curiosity to find out those hidden chains of events which bind together the seemingly disjointed appearances of nature. A savage has no inclination to amuse himself with calculating out what seems to serve no other purpose than to render the theatre of nature a more connected spectacle to his imagination." Essays, Hist. of Astron. pp. 20, 21, 23.

<sup>2</sup> Playfair, on the Astron. of the Brahmins. Trans. R. S. E. II. 138, 139.

<sup>3</sup> Goguet, having mentioned the quipos of the Peruvians, says, "It is the same with the negroes on the coast of Julia. They know nothing of the art of writing, and yet they can calculate the largest sums with great facility, by

**BOOK II.** But the rude state of the science of astronomy among  
**CHAP. IX.** the Brahmens of the present day, is supposed to have  
 been preceded by a period in which it was cultivated to a high degree of perfection. It is vain to ask at what date this period had its existence; and where the signs of such ancient knowledge are to be found. To these questions, no answer can be returned. Sir William Jones himself admits, "it is improbable that the Indian astronomers, in very early times, had made more accurate observations than those of Alexandria, Bagdad, or Maraghah; and still more improbable that they should have relapsed without apparent cause into error."<sup>1</sup> Mr. Davis, one of the oriental inquirers to whom we are most indebted for our knowledge of Hindu astronomy, says, "I had been inclined to think with many others, that the Brahmens possess no more knowledge in astronomy, than they have derived from their ancestors in tables ready calculated to their hands, and that few traces of the principles of the science could be found among them; but, by consulting some Sanscrit books, I was induced to alter my opinion. I believe the Hindu science of astronomy will be found as well known now, as it ever was, among them."<sup>2</sup> In other words,

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means of cords and knots, which have their own signification." Hist. Gén. de Voynge, iv. 283, 373, and 393. Origin of Laws, i. 224. We are informed by Herodotus, that the Egyptians, like the Brahmens, counted by shells; and, at one time at least the Greeks; but in an inverse order, the Greeks passing from left to right, the Egyptians from right to left. Herodot. lib. II. cap. 36.

<sup>1</sup> Asiat. Res. ii. 115. The following is valuable from the pen of M. Delambre, "M. La Place, qui avoit quelque intérêt à soutenir la grande ancienneté de l'astronomie Indienne, et qui avoit d'abord parlé des mouvements moyens et des époques des Hindous de la manière la plus avantageuse, a fini pourtant par croire et imprimer que leurs tables ne remontent pas au delà du 13<sup>e</sup> siècle. Mr. Playfair, en répondant à l'objection de M. de La Place, ne la détruit pas. Peu importe que Bailly ait affirmé plus ou moins directement et positivement la conjonction générale des planètes, qui a déterminé l'époque; ce qu'il falloit éclaircir est un fait. Les tables indiquent-elles en effet cette conjonction, l'époque alors est fictive, et l'astronomie Indienne est beaucoup plus moderne. Les tables n'indiquent-elles pas cette conjonction, alors l'objection de M. La Place tombe d'elle-même. C'est ce que ne dit pas Mr. Playfair, et c'est ce que je n'ai pas le tems de vérifier. Mais quand même l'objection seroit sans force, il resteroit bien d'autres difficultés. Ce ne sont pas quelques rencontres heureuses parmi une foule de calculs erronés où incohérents, qui suffroient pour prouver l'antiquité de l'Astronomie Indienne. La forme mystérieuse de leurs tables et de leurs méthodes suffroient pour donner des soupçons sur leur véracité. C'est une question qui probablement ne sera jamais décidée, et qui ne pourroit l'être que par de nouvelles découvertes dans les écrits des Hindous." Letter from M. Delambre, dated Paris, July 21, 1814, published, Appendix, note D., of "Researches concerning the Laws, &c. of India, by Q. Craufurd, Esq."

<sup>2</sup> Asiat. Res. ii. 226—228.

the ignorance of the present age is the same with the ignorance of all former ages."<sup>1</sup>

BOOK II.

CHAP. IX.

While we are thus unable, from all we have learned of the Hindu astronomy, to infer either its high antiquity, or great excellence, it is a matter of doubt whether even that portion of the science which they possess, they may not, to a certain degree, have derived from other nations more advanced in civilization than themselves.<sup>2</sup> The Hindu astronomy possesses certain features of singularity which tend to prove, and have, by various inquirers, been held sufficient to prove, its perfect originality. But it may very well be supposed, that in a science which so naturally fixes the attention of even a rude people, the Hindus themselves proceeded to a certain extent; and even if they did borrow the most valuable portion of all that they know, that it was constrained to harmonize with the methods they had already invented, and the discoveries they had previously made. The fact, moreover,

<sup>1</sup> Of that ignorance take the following specimens:—"The Bhagavat," (says Mr. Davis, *Asiat. Res.* iii. 225) "when treating of the system of the universe, places the moon above the sun, and the planets above the fixed stars."—"The prince of serpents continually sustains the weight of this earth." *Sacontala*, beginning of act v.—"Some of them" [the Brahmins of the present day] "are capable," says Mr. Orme, *Hist. of Indost.* i. 3, "of calculating an eclipse, which seems to be the utmost stretch of their mathematical knowledge."

<sup>2</sup> As compared with the state of Astronomical science in modern times, Hindu Astronomy, of course, is far from excellence, as Schlegel remarks, "Il n'est pas besoin de faire de gros livres pour le prouver;" It is, perhaps, inferior to the Astronomy of the Greeks, but it exhibits many proofs of accurate observation and deduction, highly creditable to the science of Hindu Astronomers. The division of the ecliptic into lunar mansions, the solar zodiac, the mean motions of the planets, the precession of the equinoxes, the earth's self support in space, the diurnal revolution of the earth on its axis, the revolution of the moon on her axis, her distance from the earth, the dimension of the orbits of the planets, the calculation of eclipses, are parts of a system which could not have been found amongst an unenlightened people. That the antiquity of the Hindu Astronomy has been exaggerated is no doubt true, but there is no reason to conceive that it is not ancient. Even Bentley, himself, refers the contrivance of the lunar mansions to B.C. 1424, a period anterior to the earliest notices of Greek Astronomy, and implying a course of still earlier observation. The originality of Hindu Astronomy, if this era be granted, is at once established, but it is also proved by intrinsic evidence, as although there are some remarkable coincidences between the Hindu and other systems, their methods are their own. "If there be any resemblances," says Professor Wallace (*Account of British India*, Edinburgh,) they have arisen out of the nature of the science, or from what the Indians have borrowed from the Arabians, who were instructed by the Greeks, rather than from anything borrowed from the Indians by the Arabians or the Greeks." There is no occasion to suppose the Greeks were instructed by the Hindus, but the Arabians certainly were. Their own writers affirm that Indian Astronomers were greatly encouraged by the early Khalifs, particularly Harun al Rashid and Al Mamun; they were invited to Bagdad, and their works were translated into Arabic. The Hindus were, fully as much as the Greeks, the teachers of the Arabians.

**BOOK II.** is, that if the Hindu astronomy exhibits marks of distinction from other systems, it exhibits, on the supposition of its originality, still more surprising instances of agreement with other systems. "The days of the week" (I use the language of Mr. Playfair) "are dedicated by the Brahmens, as by us, to the seven planets, and, what is truly singular, they are arranged precisely in the same order. The ecliptic is divided, as with us, into twelve signs of thirty degrees each. This division is purely ideal, and is intended merely for the purpose of calculation. The names and emblems by which these signs are expressed, are nearly the same as with us; and as there is nothing in the nature of things to have determined this coincidence, it must, like the arrangement of the days of the week, be the result of some ancient and unknown communication."<sup>1</sup> From this striking circumstance, Montucla, the celebrated historian of mathematics, inferred, that the Hindu zodiac was borrowed from the Greeks; and from the vicinity of the Greek empire of Bactria, as well as from the communications which took place between the Hindus, the Persians, and Arabians, the facility with which the knowledge of the Grecian astronomy might pass into India is clear. Sir William Jones controverts the position that the Hindu ecliptic was borrowed from the Greeks; he contends that it was derived from the Chaldeans.<sup>2</sup> But this is the same in the end.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Playfair, on the Astronomy of the Brahmens. Trans. R. S. E. II. 140, 141. See, to the same purpose, Colebrooke on the Indian and Arabian Divisions of the Zodiac, Asiat. Res. ix. 323, 376.

<sup>2</sup> Asiat. Res. II. 289.

<sup>3</sup> The division of the zodiac among the Burmans as well as the Brahmens, resembles ours, the original Chaldean. "My friend Sangermano," (says Dr. Buchanan, Asiat. Res. vi. 204), "gave Captain Sykes a silver basin, on which the twelve signs were embossed. He conceived, and I think justly, that this zodiac had been communicated to the Burmans from Chaldea by the intervention of the Brahmens. And I find, that in this conjecture he is supported by Sir W. Jones, (As. Res. II. 306). Both, however, I am afraid, will excite the indignation of the Brahmens, who, as the learned Judge in another place alleges, have always been too proud to borrow science from any nation ignorant of the Vedas. Of their being so proud as not to acknowledge their obligations, I make no doubt; but that they have borrowed from the Chaldeans, who were ignorant of the Vedas, Sir W. Jones himself has proved. Why, then, should he have opposed the sarcastic smiles of perplexed Pandits to the reasoning of M. Montucla (As. Res. II. 303, 289), when that learned man alleged that the Brahmens have derived astronomical knowledge from the Greeks and Arabs. The expression of the Brahmens quoted by him as a proof, namely, 'that no base creature can be lower than a Yavan or Greek,' only exposes their miserable ignorance and disgusting filiblerity."—On this pride, too great to learn (a sure sign of barbarity), it is also to be remarked, that a matrimonial connexion (among the Hindus the most sacred of all connexions) took place between Sc-

At one time a disposition appeared to set the knowledge of the Hindus, in pure mathematics, very high. BOOK II.  
CHAP. IX.

A very convenient, and even an ingenious mode of constructing the table of approximate signs, is in use among the Hindu astronomers. "But ignorant totally," says Professor Leslie, "of the principles of the operation, those

Iencus and Sandrocottos. "On this difficulty," says Mr. Wilford, "I consulted the pundits of Benares, and they all gave me the same answer; namely, that in the time of Chandragupta, the Yavanas were much respected, and were even considered as a sort of Hindus." *Asiat. Res.* v. 286. What was to hinder the Brahmins from learning astronomy from the Greeks at that period? Mr. Wilford indeed says that a great intercourse formerly subsisted between the Hindus and the nations of the West. *Ibid.* iii. 297, 298. Sir William seems to have known but little of the intercourse which subsisted between the Hindus and the people of the West. Suetonius (*in vit. Octav.*) informs us, that the Indians sent ambassadors to Augustus. An embassy met him when in Syria, from king Porus, as he is called, with letters written in the Greek character, containing, as usual, a hyperbolical description of the grandeur of the monarch. Strabo, *Iib.* xv. p. 663. A Brahmen was among those ambassadors, who followed Augustus to Athens, and there burned himself to death. Strabo, *Ibid.* and Dio Cass., *Iib.* lili. p. 527. Another splendid embassy was sent from the same quarter to Constantine. Cedreni Annaal. p. 242, Ed. Basil. 1566; Maurice, *Hist.* III. 125. "I have long harboured a suspicion," says Gibbon, "that *all* the Scythian, and *some*, perhaps *much*, of the Indian science, was derived from the Greeks of Bactriana." *Gibbon.* vii. 294. A confirmation of this idea, by no means trifling, was found in China, by Lord Macartney and his suite, who discovered the mathematical instruments deposited in the cities of Pekin, and Nunkeen, not constructed for the latitude of those places, but for the 37th parallel, the position of Balk or Bactris; Barrow's *China*, p. 289. The certainty of the fact of a Christian church being planted in India at a time not distant from that of the apostles, is a proof that the Hindus had the means of learning from the Greeks.—We learn the following very important fact from Dr. Buchanan: The greater part of Bengal manuscripts, owing to the badness of the paper, require to be copied at least once in ten years, as they will, in that climate, preserve no longer; and every copyist, it is to be suspected, adds to old books whatever discoveries he makes, relinquishing his immediate reputation for learning, in order to promote the grand and profitable employment of his sect, the delusion of the multitude. *Asiat. Res.* vi. 174, note. Anquetil Duperron, who had at an early period asserted the communication of Grecian science to the Hindus, (see *Recherches Historiques et Philosophiques sur l'Inde*) supported this conclusion at the end of his long life. "N'est il pas avoué," says he in his notes to the French translation of Paolino's *Travels*, *ill.* 442; "que, de tout temps, sans conquête, avec conquête, par terre comme par mer, l'Asie, l'Inde, et l'Europe, ont eu des relations plus ou moins actives; que les savans, les sages de ces contrées se sont visités, ont pu se faire part de leurs découvertes; et qu'il n'est pas hors de vraisemblance que quelques uns auront fait usage dans leurs livres, même sans en avertir, des nouvelles lumières qu'ils avaient reçues de l'étranger? De nos jours, le Rajah d'Amber, dans ses ouvrages astronomiques, parle des tables de la Haïre Le Rajah Djessingue, aura prolifié des leçons du P. Bouldier, qu'il avait appelé auprès de lui. Si l'astronome Brahme, avec lequel M. le Gentil a travalié à Pondicherry, écrit sur l'astronomie, sans abandonner le fond de ses principes, du système Indien, il adoptera des pratiques qu'il aura remarquées dans son disciple, calculera, quelque Indou, à la Française, et donnera comme de lui, du pays des résultats réellement tirés de ses rapports avec l'astronomie Française. Nier ces probabilités, c'est ne pas connaître les hommes."—"Il y a différentes époques dans les sciences Indiennes, dans la mythologie, les opinions religieuses de cette contrée. Les Indiens ont reçu ou emprunté diverses connaissances des Arabes, des Perses, en tel temps; des Grecs dans tel autre." *Ibid.* p. 451.

**BOOK II.** humble calculators are content to follow blindly a slavish routine. The Brahmens must, therefore, have derived such information from people further advanced than themselves in science, and of a bolder and more inventive genius. Whatever may be the pretensions of that passive race, their knowledge of trigonometrical computation has no solid claim to any high antiquity. It was probably, before the revival of letters in Europe, carried to the East by the tide of victory. The natives of Hindustan might receive instruction from the Persian astronomers, who were themselves taught by the Greeks of Constantinople, and stimulated to those scientific pursuits by the skill and liberality of their Arabian conquerors."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Elements of Geometry, etc., by John Leslie, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, note xxiv. All that can be said in favour of the mathematical science of the Hindus is very skilfully summed up in the following passage, by a mathematician of first-rate eminence, William Wallace, Esq., the Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh. "The researches of the learned have brought to light astronomical tables in India, which must have been constructed by the principles of geometry; but the period at which they have been formed has by no means been completely ascertained. Some are of opinion, that they have been framed from observations made at a very remote period, not less than 3,000 years before the Christian era; and if this opinion be well founded, the science of geometry must have been cultivated in India to a considerable extent, long before the period assigned to its origin in the West; so that many of the elementary propositions may have been brought from India to Greece. The Hindus have a treatise called the Surya Skihanta, which professes to be a revelation from heaven, communicated to Meya, a man of great sanctity, about four millions of years ago; but setting aside this fabulous origin, it has been supposed to be of great antiquity, and to have been written at least two thousand years before the Christian era. Interwoven with many absurdities, this book contains a rational system of trigonometry, which differs entirely from that first known in Greece or Arabia. In fact, it is founded on a geometrical theorem, which was not known to the geometers of Europe before the time of Vieta, about two hundred years ago. And it employs the sines of arcs, a thing unknown to the Greeks, who used the chords of the double arcs. The invention of sines has been attributed to the Arabs; but it is possible that they may have received this improvement in trigonometry, as well as the numeral characters, from India." Edinburgh Encyclopedia, Article Geometry, p. 191. The only fact here asserted, which bears upon the question of the civilization of the Hindus, is that of their using the sines of arcs instead of the chords of the double arcs. Suppose that they invented this method. It proves nothing beyond what all men believe, that the Hindus made a few of the first steps in civilization at an early period; and that they engaged in those abstract speculations, metaphysical and mathematical, to which a semi-barbarous people are strongly inclined. The Arabians were never more than semi-barbarous. The Greeks were no better, at the early age when they were acquainted with the elementary propositions of geometry. If the Greeks or Arabians invented, in the semi-barbarous state, the mode of computation by the chords, what was to hinder the Hindus from inventing, while semi-barbarous, the mode of computing by the sines of arcs? This is upon the supposition that the mode of computing by sines, and the elementary propositions on which it depends, really are original among the Hindus. But this seems not to rest upon very satisfactory proof, when it is barely inferred from the use of chords by the Greeks; and the possibility alone is asserted of the Arabians having derived the knowledge from the Hindus.—M

The author has here shifted his ground; as his quotation from Professor

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Arithmetic is a branch of mathematics; and among other inventions, of which the honour has been claimed for the Hindus, is that of numerical characters.<sup>1</sup> Whether the signs used by the Hindus are so peculiar as to render it probable that they invented them, or whether it is still more probable that they borrowed them, are questions which, for the purpose of ascertaining their progress in civilisation, are not worth resolving. "The invention of numerical characters," says Goguet, "must have been very ancient. For though flints, pebbles, and grains of corn &c., might be sufficient for making arithmetical calculations, they were by no means proper for preserving the result of them. It was, however, necessary on many occasions to preserve the result of arithmetical operations, and consequently it was necessary, very early, to invent signs for that purpose."<sup>2</sup> Under these motives, a people, who had communication with another people already acquainted with numerical signs, would borrow them: a people who had no such communication, would be under the necessity of inventing them. But alphabetical signs, far more difficult, were invented at a rude period of society; no certain proof of civilisation is therefore gained by the invention of arithmetical characters. The characters of which Europeans themselves make use, and which they have borrowed from the Arabians, are really hieroglyphics; and "from the monuments of the Mexicans," says Goguet, "which are still remaining, it appears that hieroglyphics were used by that people, both for letters and numerical characters."<sup>3</sup> That diligent and judicious inquirer says, in general, "The origin of ciphers or numerical characters was confounded with that of hieroglyphic writing. To this day, the Arabian

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Wallace is hostile to the purport of his argument, and proves that the Hindus had an original method of computation, and one which anticipated modern discovery. The position that they must have been indebted to a people further advanced than themselves, as, for instance, the Greeks, is shown to be untenable. Obliged, however reluctantly, to admit that the Hindus may have invented this method, the author falls back upon the more general charge, and says, "it does not substantiate their civilization." The question at issue in this place is, not their civilization, but their proficiency in mathematics; and the instance given is favourable to the pretensions of the Hindus to very considerable progress effected by their own independent efforts.—W.

<sup>1</sup> Even Delambre, who disputes the originality of Hindu astronomy, concedes their claim to early progress in arithmetic, and the invention of numerical ciphers.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Origin of Laws, i. 221.

<sup>3</sup> Origin of Laws, i. 221.

BOOK II. ciphers are real hieroglyphics, and do not represent words, but things. For which reason, though the nations who use them speak different languages, yet these characters excite the ideas of the same numbers in the minds of all.<sup>1</sup>

Algebraic signs, which were brought into Europe from Arabia, may, it is said, have originated in India. There is an assertion of the Arabian writers, that an Arabian mathematician in 959 travelled to India, in quest of information. He might, however, travel without finding. On this foundation, it is plain that no sound inference can be established. If, indeed, it were proved that the algebraic notation came from India, an invention which the Arabians could make, implies not much of civilisation wherever it was made. The shape, indeed, in which it was imported from Arabia, sets the question at rest. It cannot be described more clearly and shortly than in the words of Mr. Playfair. The characters, as imported from Arabia, "are mere abbreviations of words. Thus the first appearance of algebra is merely that of a system of short-hand writing, or an abbreviation of common language, applied to the solution of arithmetical problems. It was a contrivance merely to save trouble."<sup>2</sup>

The books of the Hindus abound with the praise of learning: and the love and admiration of learning is a mark of civilisation and refinement. By the panegyrics, however, in the books of the Hindus, the existence is proved of little to which admiration is due. On the pretensions of the Brahmens to learning, the title to which they reserved exclusively to themselves, a great part of their unbounded influence depended. It was their interest, therefore, to excite an admiration of it, that is, of themselves,

<sup>1</sup> Ibid. Mr. Gilchrist renders it highly probable, that not only the digits, but the letters of the alphabet, are hieroglyphics. *Philosophic Etymology*, p. 23.

<sup>2</sup> Second Dissertation, Supplement to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, p. 12. It is a coincidence well worth remarking, that Diophantus, a Greek mathematician of Alexandria, about 150 years after Christ, employed a like expedient. "The questions he resolves," says Mr. Playfair, "are of considerable difficulty. The expression is that of common language abbreviated, and assisted by a few symbols." Ibid. p. 13. In a MS. of Diophantus, which Bombelli says he saw in the Vatican Library, the Indian authors, he says, are often quoted. Nothing of this appears in the work of Diophantus, which was published about three years after the time when Bombelli wrote. Nor has any other work of Diophantus been produced. It is, besides, to be remembered, that the Greeks used the word *Indian* with great latitude. They applied it not merely to the people beyond the Indus: they applied it, also, to a people on the Euxine Sea; to a people in Ethiopia; in a general way, to all the people of the East. It is by no means clear that Diophantus would not apply it to the Arabians themselves. See Appendix, No. II., at the end of the chapter.

by every artifice. When we contemplate, however, the acquisitions and performances on which the most lofty of these panegyrics were lavished, we can be at no loss for a judgment on their learning, or the motive from which the praises of it arose. To be able to read the Vedas was merit of the most exalted nature; to have actually read them, elevated the student to a rank almost superior to that of mortals. "A priest," says the sacred text of Menu, "who has gone through the whole Veda, is equal to a sovereign of the whole world!" What is valuable in learning could be

<sup>1</sup> Laws of Menu, ch. ix. 245. "Since the era of Hallidæ and Sir William Jones," says Mr. Scott Waring, "the existence of the precious manuscripts of Sanscrit learning has, like the chorus to a popular song, been echoed from author to author, who, though entirely ignorant of Sanscrit, have stamped with credibility a seemingly vague supposition; for what production have we yet seen to justify those extravagant praises?" Tour to Sheeraz, by Ed. Scott Waring, p. 6. Mr. Wilsford, better acquainted with the Puranas than any other European, speaks of them with little respect. He talks "of the ignorant compilers of the Purana, who have arranged this heterogeneous mass without method and still less judgment." As. Reg. vi. 471. M. Bernier, than whom no European had better opportunities of observing the actual and present attainments of the Brahmins, who observed with a penetrating and judicious spirit, and wrote before the birth of theory on the subject, says, "Après le Purana quelques uns se Jetten dans la philosophie où certainement ils réussissent bien peu; — Je l'ai déjà dit, ils sont d'une humeur lente et paresseuse, et ne sont point animés dans l'espérance de parvenir à quelque chose par leur étude." Suite des Mémoires sur l'Empire du Grand Mogol, I. 184. "Leurs plus fameux Pendets," says he, "me semblent très ignorans." Ibid. p. 185. Mentioning their accounts of the world, he says, "Il y en a aussi qui veulent que la Lumière et les ténèbres soient les premiers principes, et disent là-dessus mille choses à vue de pays sans ordre ni suite, et apportent de longues raisons *qui ne sentent nullement la philosophie*, mais souvent la façon ordinaire de parler du peuple." Ibid. p. 187. Though the Hindoo abstain religiously from anatomy, they pretend to know most confidently anatomical facts. "Ils ne laissent pas d'assurer qu'il y a cinq mille veines dans l'homme, ni plus ni moins, comme s'ils les avaient bien conté." Ibid. p. 190. After a review of their whole knowledge, which would be reckoned no incorrect outline, by the best informed of the present day, he adds, "Toutes ces grandes impertinences que je viens de vous raconter m'ont souvent fait dire en moi-même que si ce sont là les fameuses sciences de ces anciens Brâmanes des Indes, il faut qu'il y ait eu bien du monde trompé dans les grandes idées qu'on en a conçues." Ibid. p. 193. "For some time a very unjust and unhappy impression appeared to have been made on the public mind, by the encomiums passed on the Hindoo writings. In the first place, they were thus elevated in their antiquity beyond the Christian Scriptures, the writings of Moses having been called the productions of yesterday, compared with those of the Brahmuns. The contents of these books, also, were treated with the greatest reverence; the primitive religion of the Hindoos, it was said, revealed the most sublime doctrines, and inculcated a pure morality. We were taught to make the greatest distinction between the ancient and modern religion of the Hindoos; for the apologists of Hindooism did not approve of its being judged of by present appearances. Some persons endeavoured to persuade us, that the Hindoos were not idolaters, because they maintained the unity of God; though they worshipped the work of their own hands as God, and though the number of their gods was 330,000,000. It is very probable, that the unity of God has been a sentiment amongst the philosophers of every age; and that they wished it to be understood, that they worshipped the One God, whether they bowed before the image of Moloch, Jupiter, or Kulee; yet mankind have generally concluded, that he who worships an image is an idolater; and I suppose they will continue to think so,

BOOK II. little understood, where consequences of so much importance  
 CHAP. IX. were attached to a feat of this description.

The Hindus have institutions of education; and the Brahmins teach the arts of reading and writing, by tracing the characters with a rod in the sand.<sup>1</sup> How extensively this elementary knowledge is diffused, we have received little or no information. This is a satisfactory proof of the want of intelligence and of interest with which our countrymen in India have looked upon the native population. The magistrates, however, who returned answers to the interrogatories of government in the year 1801, respecting the morals of the people, describe the state of education in general terms, as deplorable in the extreme. Mr. J. Stracey, magistrate of Momensing, says, "The lower sort are extremely ignorant." Mr. Paterson, magistrate of Dacca Jelalpore, recommends "a total change in the system of education amongst those who have any education at all."

unless, in this age of reason, common sense should be turned out of doors.—Now, however, the world has had some opportunity of deciding upon the claims of the Hindoo writings, both as it respects their antiquity and the value of their contents. Mr. Colebrooke's Essay on the Védas, and his other important translations; the Bhugvut Geeta, by Mr. Wilkins; the translation of the Ramayana, several volumes of which have been printed; some valuable papers in the Asiatic Researches; with other translations by different Sungs-kritu scholars; have thrown a great body of light on this subject; and this light is daily increasing.—Many an object appears beautiful when seen at a distance, and through a mist; but when the fog has dispersed, and the person has approached it, he smiles at the deception. Such is the exact case with these books, and this system of idolatry. Because the public, for want of being more familiar with the subject, could not ascertain the point of time when the Hindoo Shastris were written, they therefore at once believed the assertions of the Brahmins and their friends, that their antiquity was unfathomable." Ward on the Hindoos, Introd. p. xcix. "There is scarcely anything in Hindooism, when truly known, in which a learned man can delight, or of which a benevolent man can approve; and I am fully persuaded, that there will soon be but one opinion on the subject, and that this opinion will be, that the Hindoo system is less ancient than the Egyptian, and that it is the most puerile, impure, and bloody, of any system of idolatry that was ever established on earth." Ibid. ciii.

<sup>1</sup> Anquetil Duperron, who lodged a night at the house of a schoolmaster at a Mahratta village, a little north of Poona, gives a ludicrous picture of the teaching scene. "Les écoliers, sur deux files, accroplis sur leur talons, traçoient avec le doigt les lettres, ou les mots, sur une planche noire couverte de sable blanc; d'autres répétoient les noms des lettres en forme de mots. Car les Indiens, au lieu de dire comme nous, a, b, c, prononcent ainsi—awam, banam, knam. Le maître ne me parut occupé pendant une demi heure que la classe dura encore, qu'à frapper avec un long rotin le dos nu des ces pauvres enfans: en Asie c'est la partie qui paye; la passion malheureusement trop commune dans ces contrées, veille à la sûreté de celle que nos maîtres sacrifient à leur vengeance. J'aurais été bien aise de m'entretenir avec Monsieur le Pédagogue Marate, ou du moins d'avoir un alphabet de sa main; mais sa morgue ne lui permit pas de répondre à mes politesses." (Zendavesta, Disc. Prélim. p. cxxx.)

adding that "the great mass of the lower ranks have literally none." The judges of the court of appeal and circuit of Moorshedabad say: "The moral character of a nation can be improved by education only. All instruction is unattainable to the labouring poor, whose own necessities require the assistance of their children as soon as their tender limbs are capable of the smallest labour. With the middle class of tradesmen, artificers, and shopkeepers, education ends at ten years of age, and never reaches further than reading, writing (a scarcely legible hand on the plantain leaf), and the simplest rules of arithmetic."<sup>1</sup> But if the Hindu institutions of education were of a much more perfect kind than they appear to have ever been, they would afford a very inadequate foundation for the inference of a high state of civilisation. The truth is, that institutions for education more elaborate than those of the Hindus, are found in the infancy of civilisation. Among the Turks and the Persians there are schools and colleges, rising one above another for the different stages of instruction.<sup>2</sup> And scarcely in any nation does the business of education appear to have been a higher concern of the government than among the Americans of Mexico and Peru.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Papers on India Affairs, No. III. ordered to be printed by the House of Commons, 30th April, 1813.

<sup>2</sup> "There were in these times, [the times of Aliverdi, nabob of Bengal] at Amritabad," says the author of the *Seer Mutakhareen*, "numbers of persons who loved sciences and learning, and employed themselves in teaching and in being taught; and I remember to have seen in that city and its environs alone, nine or ten professors of repute, and three or four hundred students and disciples; from whence may be conjectured the number of those that must have been in the great towns, and in the retired districts." *Seer Mutakhareen*, I. 703, 4to. Calcutta, 1789. N.B. This with regard to the *Musulmans* of Bengal. The translator says, in a note, "The reader must rate properly all these students, and all these expressions: their only object was the Coran and its commentaries; that is the Mahometan religion, and the Mahometan law." Ibid. A hint very different from those we are wont to receive from our guides in Hindoo literature.—"In vain do some persons talk to us of colleges, of places of education, and books: these words in Turkey convey not the same ideas as with us." Volney's *Travels in Syria and Egypt*, II. 443.—Chardin, who formed a high opinion of the Persians as Sir William Jones of the Hindus, tells us (*Voyage en Perse*, iii. 130), "Le génie des Persans est porté aux sciences, plus qu'à toute autre profession; et l'on peut dire que les Persans y réussissent si bien que ce sont, après les Chrétiens Européens, les plus savans peuples du monde..... Ils envoient les enfans aux collèges, et les élèvent aux lettres avant que leurs moyens le permettent." And at pages 137, 138, he adds that schools are distributed in great numbers in Persia, and colleges very numerous."

<sup>3</sup> "Inca Roca was reputed the first who established schools in Cuzco, where the Annas were the masters, and taught such sciences as were fit to improve the minds of Incas, who were princes, and of the chief nobility, not that they did instruct them by way of letters, for as yet they had not attained to that knowledge, but only in a practical manner, and by daily discourses: their

**BOOK II.** As evidence of the fond credulity with which the state  
**CHAP. IX.** of society among the Hindus was for a time regarded, I ought  
 to mention the statement of Sir W. Jones, who gravely, and  
 with an air of belief, informs us, that he had heard of a  
 philosopher "whose works were said to contain a system of  
 the universe, founded on the principle of attraction and  
 the central position of the sun."<sup>1</sup> This reminds the instructed  
 reader of the disposition which has been manifested by  
 some of the admirers of the Greek and Roman literature,  
 and of these by one at least who had not a weak and credul-  
 ous mind, to trace the discoveries of modern philosophy  
 to the pages of the classics. Dr. Middleton, in his celebrated  
 life of Cicero, says, that "several of the fundamental prin-  
 ciples of the modern philosophy, which pass for the original  
 discoveries of these later times, are the revival rather of  
 ancient notions, maintained by some of the first philoso-  
 phers, of whom we have any notice in history; as the  
 motion of the earth, the antipodes, a vacuum; and a uni-  
 versal gravitation or attractive quality of matter, which  
 holds the world in its present form and order."<sup>2</sup> It is a  
 well-known artifice of the Brahmens, with whose preten-  
 sions and interests it would be altogether inconsistent to  
 allow there was any knowledge with which they were not

other lectures were of religion, and of those reasons and wisdom on which their laws were established, and of the number and true exposition of them; for by these means they attained to the art of government and military discipline; they distinguished the times and seasons of the year, and by reading in their knots they learned history and the actions of past ages; they improved themselves also in the elegance and ornament of speaking, and took rules and measures for the management of their domestic affairs. These Amantas, who were philosophers, and in high esteem amongst them, taught something also of poetry, music, philosophy, and astrology," &c. Garcilasso de la Vega, Royal Commentaries, book iv. ch. xix. This same Inca exhibited one stroke at least which will be reckoned high wisdom by some amongst us: "He enacted that the children of the common people should not be educated in the liberal arts and sciences, for that were to make them proud, conceited, and ungovernable, but that the nobility were those only to whom such literature did appertain, to render them more honourable, and capable of offices in the commonwealth." Ibid. "There is nothing," (says Acosta, book vi. ch. 27) "that gives me more cause to admire, nor that I find more worthy of commendation and memory, than the order and care the Mexicans had to nourish their youth." He tells us they had schools in their temples, and masters to instruct the young, "in all commendable exercises, to be of good behaviour," &c.

<sup>1</sup> *Asiat. Res.* i. 430, and iv. 169.

<sup>2</sup> Middleton's Life of Cicero, sect. 12. Considerable currency was obtained by a very learned work of a clergyman of the Church of England, Mr. Dutens, who undertook to prove that all the discoveries which the moderns have made in the arts and sciences, may be found distinctly broached in the writings of the ancients.

acquainted, or which was not contained in some of their books, to attach to the loose and unmeaning phraseology of some of their own writings, whatever ideas they find to be in esteem; or even to interpolate for that favourite purpose.<sup>1</sup> It was thus extremely natural that Sir William Jones, whose pundits had become acquainted with the ideas of European philosophers respecting the system of the universe, should hear from them that those ideas were

<sup>1</sup> Anquetil Duperron gives us a remarkable instance of the disposition of the Brahmins to accommodate by falsification, even their sacred records, to the ideas of Europeans. "Si Je n'avois pas su que le commencement de l'Amerkosh contenoit la description du Lingam, peut-être m'ent il été impossible de découvrir que mes Brahmins, qui ne vouloient pas dévoiler le fond de leurs mystères, paraphrasoient et pallioient plutôt qu'ils ne traduisoient." Zendav. Disc. Prél. i. ccclxv. Dr. Buchanan found the propensity general, to deceive him in their accounts both of their religion and history. See Journey through Mysore, &c. II. 76, 79, 80. "The Brahmins," he says, "when asked for dates, or authority, say that they must consult their books, which may be readily done; but when I send my interpreter, who is also a Brahmin, to copy the date, they pretend that their books are lost." Ibid. I. 335. All information, he says, from the Brahmins, usually differs most essentially as derived from different individuals. Ibid. II. 306. See an account of the imposition practised by his pundits upon Captain Wilford, by Lord Teignmouth, in the Introduction to his Life of Sir William Jones; also an account by Mr. Wilford himself, Essay on the Sacred Isles in the West, Asia, Res. viii. 253.—In a letter to a friend, Sir. W. Jones said, "I can no longer bear to be at the mercy of our pundits, who deal out the Hindu law as they please, and make it at reasonable rates, when they cannot find it ready made." Life of Sir W. Jones, by Lord Teignmouth, 4to. Ed. p. 307.—Colonel Wilkes accuses the Hindu author of the Digest of Hindu Law, translated by Mr. Colebrooke, of substituting a false principle of law for a true one, out of "a courtesy and consideration, for opinions established by authority, which is peculiar to the natives of India." Histor. Sketches, p. 116.—M.

These proofs "of a well-known artifice of the Brahman," are for the most part proofs only of the ignorance or misconceptions of Europeans. Du Perron's instance is remarkable as an illustration of the former. There is no allusion to the "lingum," in a mythological sense, in the beginning of the Amerkosh, and the Brahmins must have been much amused and astonished at Du Perron's discovery; the word "linga" does occur, it is true, but only in its grammatical import of gender; the author intimating that his work (a lexicon) specifies the genders of the nouns which it contains. Buchanan insisted on the production of what rarely, if ever, exists in manuscripts—dates, and that they were not manufactured for him proves the integrity of his informers. Sir Wm. Jones's assertion is general, and purports no more than an undeniable truth, that it becomes those Europeans who administer Mohammedan and Hindu law, to know that law for themselves, and not be wholly dependent upon interpreters, who may have an interest in misleading them. Colonel Wilkes assumes, without any warrant, that Jagannatha was influenced by courtesy and consideration for established opinions, in pronouncing the earth to become the property of kings by conquest. It is much more probable that Jagannatha was quite honest, as he would attach great weight to the text on which he comments, however inconclusive it may appear to European critics, and whether well-founded or not, he expresses the general sentiment of his countrymen. The only one of these proofs then that will bear examination, is the case of Colonel Wilford, and he tempted imposition by his incantation and credulity. That instances of literary imposture occur in India, as elsewhere, is no doubt true, but they are not of a nature or extent to justify the unqualified attribution of dishonesty to all learned Brahmins whatever.—W.

BOOK II. contained in their own books: The wonder was, that without  
CHAR. IX. any proof he should believe them.<sup>1</sup>

1 He might have got proofs, equal to those with which they presented him, of Plato's having been acquainted with the circulation of the blood; viz., because when speaking of that fluid he uses the word περιπλανόμαι which signifies to be carried round.—It is worthy of remark, that the philosopher, of whom Sir William heard, and whose works contained such important discoveries, was called Yavan Acharya, that is Gentile or Greek. By the argument of Sir William, we might believe that the Greeks anticipated Newton. When Copernicus, dissatisfied with the received account of the heavenly motions, addressed himself to discover a new arrangement, we are told that "he examined all the obscure traditions delivered down to us, concerning every other hypothesis which the ancients had invented. He found in Plutarch, that some old Pythagoreans had represented the earth as revolving in the centre of the universe, like a wheel round its own axis; and that others of the same sect had removed it from the centre, and represented it as revolving in the ecliptic, like a star round the central fire. By this central fire he supposed they meant the sun," &c. Dr. Ad. Smith, *Essay on Hist. Astron.* p. 51. We might prove that Parmenides had a just conception of the figure of the globe. Plato informs us that, according to that inquirer, Το δόλον εστι

Παγωθεὶς εὐκύκλων σφαιρας εναλιγκιον συκιώ,  
Μέσοοθεὶς τοπελής παντη' του γαρ οὐτε τι μείζον  
Οὐτε βεβαιοτερον πελε.

Plat. *Sophista*, p. 171.

Herodotus mentions the opinion of a naturalist, even in his days, who supposed that the ocean flowed round the earth, (a bold step towards the conception of its right figure,) τοις μετανοοῦσιν γην περι παταν ρεῖν, lib. II. sect. 22. Dr. Vincent, giving an account of the knowledge possessed by the ancients of the globular form of the earth, and of the saying of Strabo, that nothing obstructed the passage from Spain to India by a westerly course, but the immensity of the Atlantic ocean, has the following note; "Aristotle seems the author of this supposition, as well as of most other things that are extraordinary in the knowledge of the ancients. See Bochart, *Phaleg.* 169. Συντετέντοι περι τας Ἰρακλείους τηλας τοιον τῷ περι την Ινδικην. The parts about the pillars of Hercules join to those about India. This is a nearer approach still; but both suppositions arise from the contemplation of the earth as a sphere.—Aristotle has also preserved the opinion of the Pythagoreans, who made the sun the centre of our system, with the earth and the other planets revolving round it, which is the hypothesis adopted by Copernicus, and established by Newton. Strabo, likewise, who left the phenomena of the heavens, and the form of the earth, to the mathematicians, still thought the earth a sphere, and describes our system agreeably to the theory which was afterwards adopted by Ptolemy; but he adds the idea of gravitation in a most singular manner. Σφαιροειδῆς μεν ὁ Κοσμός καὶ ὁ Ουραρός. Η ΡΟΙΗ δὲ τοι μετον των βαρεων ..... ὁ δ' ουραρός περιφερεται περι τε αυτην καὶ περι του αφορα, ατανατολής επι δυσιν. Lib. II. 110. The earth and the heaven are both spherical; but the tendency is to the centre of gravity. The heaven is carried round itself, and round its axis from east to west. I barely suggest the extent of ancient knowledge on these questions; those who wish to gratify their curiosity may consult Stobaeus, tom. II. cap. 25, Ed. Heeren, Götting. 1792, 1794; and Diogenes Laertius in Anaximander, Pythagoras, and Zeno, lib. vii. sect. 165." Periplus of the Erythrean Sea, part II. 517.—Sir William Jones tells us, in his Discourse on the Hindu zodiac, that the pundit Ramachandra had a correct notion of the figure of the earth.—So had the elder Hermes, of whom it was one of the established maxims, that the earth was ovoid, and hence the oval form of many of the oldest temples of Egypt. The earth was called Brahma's egg. See *Asiat. Res.* I. 360. Or Ramachandra, like a common fortune-teller, might only repeat to Sir William what he had learned from Sir William.—Europeans will arrive in time to think justly respecting the Hindus: Thus speaks Dr. Buchanan; "No useful science have the Brahmins diffused among their followers; history they have abolished; morality they have depressed to the utmost; and the dignity and power of the altar they have erected on the ruins of the state, and the rights of the subject." *Asiat. Res.* vi. 166.

## APPENDIX, No. I.

*Remarks on the Arguments for the Antiquity of Hindu Astronomy.*

THE knowledge of the Europeans concerning the astronomy of India is chiefly derived from different sets of astronomical tables brought to Europe at different times. All these tables are obviously connected with one another: for they are all adapted to one meridian; the mean motions are the same in them all; and their principal epochs are all deduced by calculation from one original epoch. The most ancient of the Indian epochs is fixed in the year 3102 before the Christian era, at the commencement of the Cali-yug. On account of the mutual connexion which, it is allowed, subsists between the three remaining epochs, it is only necessary to discuss that one which seems to be the most important; it is comparatively of modern date, and goes back no further than to the year of Christ, 1491.

M. Bailly, in his *Astronomie Indienne*, has endeavoured to prove that the more ancient of the two epochs is fixed by actual observations; a proposition, which, if it were clearly made out, would confer the highest antiquity on the astronomy of India. In a paper in the Edinburgh Transactions, Mr. Playfair, who has adopted the opinion of M. Bailly, has given a clear and forcible summary of all the arguments that have been adduced in favour of the side he supports. M. Laplace, who is the only other author that has noticed the subject of the Indian astronomy since the publication of M. Bailly's work, does not accede to the opinion of his brother academician. In a very short passage in the "Système du Monde," Laplace states it as his own opinion, that the ancient epoch of the Brahmins was adopted with the view of making all the celestial motions begin at the same point of the zodiac: and he very briefly hints the reasons on which his opinion is founded. In drawing up the following remarks, the observations of Laplace have been kept in view.

1. If we set out from the epoch of 1491, and compute the places of the sun, moon, and the planets, for the ancient epoch in 3102 A.C., it is found that all the celestial bodies

BOOK II. are then in mean conjunction with the sun in the origin of  
CHAP. IX. the moveable zodiac. Here then is an astronomical fact,  
which the Indian tables necessarily suppose to have taken  
place, and which, it must be allowed, appears to be very fit  
to bring the authenticity of the ancient epoch to the proof.  
For, although the tables of the modern astronomy, highly  
improved as they are, do not enable us to go back more  
than 2000 years with extreme accuracy, yet they are suffi-  
ciently exact to afford the means of judging whether the  
general conjunction, supposed in the Indian tables, was  
actually copied from the heavens or not. Now M. Bailly  
has computed the places of the planets at the time of the  
ancient epoch of the Indians, or for the commencement of  
the Cali-yug, from the tables of M. Lalande: and, although  
all the planets, except Venus, were then nearly in conjunc-  
tion with the sun, yet they were by no means so near to one  
another as to render it probable that this epoch was fixed  
by observation. M. Bailly argues that the conjunction could  
not be determined by direct observation; because the plan-  
ets are invisible when immersed in the sun's light: and he shows that fifteen days after the epoch all the planets,  
except Venus, were contained within seventeen degrees of the  
zodiac. But this is not satisfactory. Mr. Playfair admits  
that the Indian tables cannot be entirely vindicated in this  
respect. Laplace lays all the stress on this argument to  
which it seems fairly entitled.

The fiction of a general conjunction in the beginning of  
the moveable zodiac is the more remarkable, because it agrees  
precisely with the account which M. Bailly gives of the forma-  
tion of the Indian astronomical systems.

The validity of the observations made by the critic in the  
Edinburgh Review, as far as they regard the accuracy of the  
mean motions, and other astronomical elements which do  
not depend on the epochs, cannot be disputed. There is  
but one way of determining the mean motions with accu-  
racy: namely, by comparing together real observations of  
the places of the planets made at a sufficient interval of  
time. No fictitious, or assumed, epochs can be of the least  
use for this purpose. Indeed Mr. Bentley does not main-  
tain that the Brahmens make any such use of their assumed  
epochs. The artificial systems of the Indian astronomy  
necessarily suppose the mean motions and other elements

to be already determined and known. Mr. Bentley seems, in some measure, to have misconceived the nature of the arguments by which the Europeans endeavour to establish the antiquity of the Hindu astronomy. He seems to have imagined that nothing more was necessary for confuting all their reasoning on this subject, than to make them acquainted with the formation of the artificial systems of the Brahmens.

BOOK II.  
CHAP. IX.

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But considering Mr. Bentley as a person acquainted with the astronomy of the East, and as having access to the books in which it is contained, his testimony cannot but be allowed to be of great force in the present argument. He tells us that the Brahmens, when they would form an astronomical system, go back to a remote epoch, and assume as the basis of their system: that all the heavenly bodies are in a line of mean conjunction with the sun in the beginning of Aries: Now the Indian tables actually suppose such a conjunction at the commencement of the Cali-yug; and in this they are at variance with the most exact of the modern astronomical tables. Is it not then in the highest degree probable that the era of the Cali-yug is an assumed, or fictitious epoch in the astronomy of the Hindus?

If the ancient epoch, in 3102 A.C. be fictitious, the force of many of the arguments for the antiquity of the Indian astronomy will be greatly diminished. For that reasoning must needs be a good deal vague and unsatisfactory which rests entirely on the quantity of an astronomical element of an uncertain date, affected, as must be the case, by the errors of observation, of the limits of which we have no means of judging.

2. The equation of the sun's centre, according to the Indian tables, is  $2^{\circ} 10\frac{1}{2}'$ ; whereas the same quantity, according to modern observations, is only  $1^{\circ} 55\frac{1}{4}'$ . It is one consequence of the mutual disturbances of the planets that the eccentricity of the solar orbit, on which the equation just mentioned depends, was greater in former ages than it is at the present time. From the quantity which the Hindus assign to this astronomical element, M. Bailly has drawn an argument in favour of the antiquity of the Indian tables, which, it must be confessed, is of great weight, when the difference of the Indian and European determinations is considered as arising from the gradual alteration of the pla-

**BOOK II.** *netary orbits.* But Laplace has remarked that the equation  
**CHAP. IX.** which in the Hindu tables amount to  $2^\circ 10\frac{1}{2}'$ , is really composed of two parts; namely, the equation of the sun's centre, and the annual equation of the moon; both of which depend alike on the eccentricity of the sun's orbit, and complete their periods in the same interval of time. The Indians have naturally enough blended these two irregularities together; because, the great object of their astronomy being the calculation of eclipses, the relative places of the sun and moon are effected by the sum of both. The annual equation of the moon is nearly  $11'$ : and, when added to the equation of the sun's centre, the amount ( $2^\circ 6\frac{1}{2}'$ ) does not differ much from the quantity set down in the Indian tables. The force of M. Bailly's argument is therefore completely taken off.

But the remark of Laplace not only invalidates the argument for the antiquity, but it furnishes a powerful one on the opposite side. It is indeed in the situation of a perfidious ally, who not only deserts his friends, but marshals his whole force in the ranks of their opponents. The amount of the two irregularities which are blended together by the Indians is  $2^\circ 6\frac{1}{2}'$  at the present time: but if we go back to the commencement of the Cali-yug, there must be added about  $13\frac{1}{2}'$ , on account of the greater magnitudo of the sun's eccentricity in that age above what it is in the present century; and thus we ought to have found  $2^\circ 20'$ , in place of  $2^\circ 10\frac{1}{2}'$  in the Hindu tables, if their supposed antiquity be granted. It must be admitted that, in this instance at least, the Indian tables, when they are referred to the ancient epoch, are fairly at variance with the state of the heavens.

3. The quantities which the Indian tables assign to two other astronomical elements, viz. the mean motions of Jupiter and Saturn, have been found to agree almost exactly, not with what is observed at the present time, but with what the theory of gravity shows would have been observed at the beginning of the Cali-yug. This curious coincidence between the Hindu tables and the most abstract theory of modern Europe, was discovered by Laplace after the publication of the *Astronomie Indienne*: and it was communicated to M. Bailly in a letter inserted in the *Journal des Savans*. The argument which this circumstance

furnishes in favour of the antiquity is not forgotten by Mr. Playfair; and it is also mentioned by the critic in the Edinburgh Review.

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But the discovery of Laplace, although it cannot be disputed, is absolutely of no avail in establishing the antiquity of the Indian astronomy: for no inference can be drawn from it respecting the ancient epoch in 3102 A.C., which is not equally conclusive with regard to the modern epoch of 1491 of our era.

The theory of astronomy is indebted to Laplace for many interesting discoveries. Of these, two equations, affecting the mean motions of Jupiter and of Saturn, are not the least important. These irregularities are periodical, and they both complete their courses in  $917\frac{3}{4}$  years: And while one of them augments the motion of one of the planets, the other diminishes the motion of the other planet. It is a consequence of this discovery of Laplace, that, after an interval of time equal to  $917\frac{3}{4}$  years; or equal to twice, or thrice, or any exact number of times that period; the mean motions of Jupiter and Saturn will return, to be precisely of the same quantity that they were at the beginning of the interval of time. Now, if from the epoch 1491, we reckon back a number of years, equal to five times the period of Laplace, we shall arrive at the year 3095 A.C., which is so near the ancient epoch of the Indians, as to entitle us to infer, that an observer who lived in 1491, would agree in his determinations of the mean motions of Jupiter and Saturn, with an astronomer who had lived forty-six centuries before, at the beginning of the Cali-yug.

No reliance, then, can be placed on this argument, as a proof of the antiquity of the Hindu tables. On the contrary, if we admit, what it must be allowed is extremely probable, that the ancient epoch is a fictitious one, pointed out by superstition, or fixed upon for convenience in calculation, this argument will concur with the last in giving, to the astronomy of India, a modern date, rather than the high antiquity contended for.

4. M. Bailly has shown that the place of the aphelion of Jupiter's orbit, determined by the Indian tables for the beginning of the Cali-yug, agrees with the modern tables of Lalande, when corrected by the theoretical equations of La

**BOOK II.** Grange. The same thing is true of the quantity which the Hindus assign to the equation of Saturn's centre. It requires but little scepticism to raise up doubts of the validity of arguments founded on such coincidences. In the first place, we are ignorant of the limits of the errors that the Indian determinations may be susceptible of. In the second place, the dates of the observations on which the astronomical elements of the Indians depend, are unknown and merely conjectural: yet these are necessary data for calculating the corrections that must be applied to the modern tables, to fit them for representing the ancient state of the heavens. In the third place, the theoretical formulas themselves, by which the corrections are computed, cannot be supposed to enable us to go back with much accuracy to so remote an epoch as the Cali-yug; a circumstance which is not owing to any imperfection of the theory, but to the want of our knowing with precision the relative proportions of the masses of the planets that compose our system. When we reflect on these things, even the very exact coincidence of the Indian elements, with the calculated quantities (which is nearer than there is reasonable ground to expect) is apt to create a suspicion that the whole is owing to a happy combination of balancing errors.

But waiving these objections, fairness of reasoning requires that we should lay no more stress on such coincidences as those just mentioned, in favour of one side of the question, than we are willing to allow to discrepancies in similar circumstances, in support of the other side. M. Bailly allows that not any more of the elements of the planetary motions, contained in the Indian tables, agree so well with the determinations derived from the theory of gravity: and the quantities which are assigned to the equations of the centre, for Jupiter and Mars, are quite irreconcileable with the supposition of so remote an antiquity as the beginning of the Cali-yug. Such a contrariety of results justly invalidates the whole argument.

5. Another argument urged by the favourers of the antiquity of the Indian astronomy, is derived from the obliquity of the ecliptic, which the Indians state at  $24^{\circ}$ .

Both observation and theory concur in showing that the obliquity of the ecliptic has been diminishing slowly for many ages preceding the present. At the beginning of the

Cali-yug, this astronomical element, according to theory, was  $23^{\circ} 51'$ , which is still short of what the Indians make it. BOOK II.  
Twelve centuries before the Cali-yug, the actual obliquity CHAP. IX.  
of the ecliptic, as derived from theory, would coincide with  
the Indian quantity within  $2'$ : and, by going back still fur-  
ther, the error may, no doubt, be entirely annihilated.  
Nothing, it must be confessed, can be more vague and un-  
satisfactory than this sort of reasoning.

Let us grant that the Hindus determined the obliquity of the ecliptic, 4,300 years before our era, which supposes that they made an error of  $2'$  only: How are we to account for the strange circumstance, that a quantity, which they were at one time able to determine with so much accuracy, should remain unaltered for a period of nearly 6,000 years; during which time the error of the first determination has accumulated to half a degree? Are we to suppose that, immediately after this imaginary epoch, the art of astronomical observation disappeared, and was entirely lost? This, we know, could not be the case, because many other astronomical elements necessarily suppose observations of a comparatively modern date: as, for instance, the equation of the sun's centre.

We shall account for the quantity which the Indians assign to the obliquity much more simply and naturally, if we trust to the authority of Mr. Bentley. According to him, the Hindu astronomers, (unless in cases where extraordinary accuracy is required) make it a rule, in observing, to take the nearest round numbers, rejecting fractional quantities: so that we have only to suppose that the observer who fixed the obliquity of the ecliptic at  $24^{\circ}$ , actually found it to be more than  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ .

6. The length of the tropical year, as deduced from the Hindu tables, is  $365^d 5^h 50' 35''$ ; which is  $1' 46''$  longer than the determination of La Caille. This is certainly not a little accurate, and necessarily supposes some degree of antiquity, and the comparisons of observations made at a great interval of time. We shall be the better able to form a judgment of the length of time which such a degree of accuracy may require, if we consider the errors of some of our older tables, published before the art of making astronomical instruments was brought to its present perfect state. In the Alphonsine Tables, published about

|           |  |                                       |                  |                |     |     |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----|-----|
| BOOK II.  | 1252,                                  | the length of the tropical year, is — | 365 <sup>d</sup> | 5 <sup>b</sup> | 49' | 16" |
| CHAP. IX. | Copernicus (about 1530) makes it . . . | 365                                   | 5                | 49             | 6   |     |
|           | Kepler (about 1627) . . . . .          | 365                                   | 5                | 48             | 57  |     |

These quantities are determined by observations distant from one another about 1500 or 1600 years: and the differences between them and the year of La Caille, is about the fourth part of the error of the Indians.

If we suppose that the length of the year found in the Hindu tables was actually determined by observation at the beginning of the Cali-yug, the error, which has been stated at 1' 46", may be reduced to 1' 5". The reason of this is, that the year has been decreasing in duration, for all the intervening time, and the quantity, computed by theory, which must be added to the length of the year as observed in the present age, to have its length forty-nine centuries ago, is 401". Arguments of this kind carry but little force with them. For the time when the observations from which the length of the Indian year was deduced is totally unknown: and it seems highly probable, that the beginning of the Cali-yug is not an epoch settled by observation. Besides, the error of observation (which cannot be reduced under 1' 5") must be allowed to be, in this instance, nearly double of the correction applied: and there is nothing to prove that it may not amount to much more.

It is to be remarked that the Indian tables contain the sidereal motion of the sun, and not his motion in respect of the moveable equinox as our tables do. If we draw our comparison from the length of the sidereal, instead of the tropical year, the result will not be so favourable to the accuracy of the Hindu astronomy. The sidereal revolution of the sun, according to the Indians, is 365<sup>d</sup> 6<sup>h</sup> 12' 30"; according to modern observation it is 365<sup>d</sup> 6<sup>h</sup> 9' 11"; and the error is 3' 19", nearly double the former error. The difference of those errors arises from the quantity which they assign to the precession of the equinoxes, which is 54" instead of 50½".

7. Of all the arguments in support of the antiquity of the Hindu astronomy, the strongest and most direct is that which is derived from an ancient zodiac brought from India by M. le Gentil. This argument, therefore, deserves to be particularly considered.

. It must be observed, that the force of an argument,

such as this, which turns on the magnitude of an astronomical quantity that accumulates slowly, and is perceptible only after a long lapse of time, will entirely depend on the authenticity of the observations, or facts, from which the argument is drawn, and on the precision and accuracy with which they are recorded. Anything uncertain, or arbitrary, or hypothetical, respecting these fundamental points, will greatly weaken the strength of the argument. We are told by Mr. Playfair, that the star Aldebaran has the longitude of  $3^{\circ} 20'$  in the zodiac of M. le Gentil: and it is on the authenticity and precision of this fact, that the validity of his reasoning hinges. Now, if we turn to the passage of the *Astronomie Indienne*, which is cited by Mr. Playfair, it will appear that this position of Aldebaran is rather a conjecture, or hypothesis, of M. Bailly, than an authentic observation recorded with precision.

The Indian zodiac moves westward, at the same rate as the fixed stars, and it is divided into twenty-seven constellations, each of  $13^{\circ} 20'$ . The vernal equinox was  $54^{\circ}$  to the east of the beginning of the zodiac at the commencement of the Cali-yug; and it was therefore in the fifth constellation, being  $40'$  more advanced than the fourth. The Indians mark the fourth constellation, which they call Rohini, by five stars, of which the most easterly, or the most advanced in the zodiac, is the very brilliant star Aldebaran. These things being premised, M. Bailly thus proceeds: “Il est naturel que cette belle étoile ait marqué la fin ou le commencement d'une constellation. Je suppose qu'elle marque en effet la fin de Rohini, la quatrième des constellations Indiennes, et le commencement de la cinquième; il résulte de cette supposition que l'étoile Aldebaran étoit placée dans le zodiaque Indien à  $1^{\circ} 23^{\circ} 20'$  de l'origine du zodiaque.” It appears, then, that the whole of the argument, which is stated so strongly by Mr. Playfair, and by the critic in the Edinburgh Review, rests on the conjecture of M. Bailly; that Aldebaran was exactly placed at the end of the fourth, and the beginning of the fifth constellation in the Indian zodiac. For this, no sort of proof is offered, except the conspicuousness of the star, which is certainly one of the most brilliant in the heavens. Are we to suppose, for the sake of this argu-

**BOOK II.** ment, that the position of the Indian zodiac was entirely regulated by the star Aldebaran ? For it must be admitted that when the beginning of one constellation is fixed, all the rest are thereby determined. Or, are we to suppose, what is still more improbable, that the beginning of the fifth constellation fell, by a lucky chance, exactly in the place of this conspicuous star ?

But the Indians themselves afford us the means of correcting the supposition of M. Bailly. Mr. Bentley tells us that Brahma Gupta makes the longitude of the star, Spica Virginis, in the moveable zodiac of the Hindus,  $6^{\circ} 3'$ : According to De la Caille, the longitude of the same star in 1750, was

|                        | $6^{\circ} 20' 21'' 18'''$     |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Of Aldebaran . . . . . | $2 \quad 6 \quad 17 \quad 47$  |
| Difference . . . . .   | $4 \quad 14 \quad .3 \quad 31$ |

which, subtracted from  $6^{\circ} 3'$ , leaves  $1^{\circ} 18' 56'' 29''$  for the longitude of Aldebaran in the Indian zodiac, instead of  $1^{\circ} 23' 20''$ , which it is according to the hypothesis of M. Bailly. The error amounts to  $4^{\circ} 23' 31''$ : a quantity which is nowise inconsistent with the configuration of the constellation Rohini, while it is sufficient to show that the Indians may have fixed the origin of their zodiac at the beginning of the Cali-yug, by calculating back from a modern epoch.

And indeed the Brahmins point out a modern epoch, a noted one in their astronomy, which is connected with the era of the Cali-yug by their precession, in the same manner that the modern epoch 1491, is connected with it by the mean motions. Mr. Bentley tells us that, according to Varaha, the year 3601 of the Cali-yug (A.D. 499) began precisely at the vernal equinox: which implies that the origin of the Indian zodiac did then coincide with the equinoctial point. Now if we deduct  $1^{\circ} 24'$ , the Indian precession for 3600 years, from  $12^{\circ}$ , we shall have  $10^{\circ} 6'$  for the origin of the zodiac, reckoned eastward from the vernal equinox, according to the practice of our astronomy: precisely as it comes out by the Indian tables.

The epoch, 3601 of the Cali-yug, is involved in all the Indian tables, insomuch that M. Bailly was led to discover it by calculation: and, in fact, there is no authority for

fixing the origin of the Indian zodiac in  $10^{\circ} 6^{\circ}$  at the era BOOK II.  
of the Cali-yug, except by reckoning back from this epoch, CHAP. IX.  
according to the Hindu rule for the precession.

It appears, then, that the argument drawn from the zodiac of M. le Gentil, when closely considered, not only affords no evidence for the antiquity of the Indian astronomy, but rather favours the opinion that the beginning of the Cali-yug, is a fictitious epoch fixed by calculation. For it has been shown that the place of the origin of the Indian zodiac, at the era of the Cali-yug, is connected by the precession contained in the Hindu tables with the epoch 3601 of that age: and, indeed, all the epochs of the Brahmens, ancient as well as modern, are connected with the same fundamental epoch, in what regards the precession. The pretended position of the star Aldebaran is merely a conjecture of M. Bailly: and it is at variance with the place which Bramha Gupta, and other Indian astronomers, assign to the star "Spica Virginis."

8. In the preceding observations, all the arguments that have been adduced in favour of the antiquity of the Indian astronomy, as far as the question is purely astronomical, have been considered, excepting those drawn from the places of the sun and moon, at the beginning of the Cali-yug, (at midnight, between the 17th and 18th of February, of the year 3102 A.C.) With regard to the first of these, there is a difficulty which weighed so much with Mr. Playfair, as to induce him to set aside the argument entirely, and to lay no stress upon it. It is remarkable that the critic in the Edinburgh Review has brought forward this argument, without noticing the difficulty which, in Mr. Playfair's opinion, rendered it inconclusive. After all that has been urged to invalidate the opinion of M. Bailly, that the ancient epoch of the Indian tables was settled by observation, we shall be spared the task of examining the remaining argument drawn from the place of the moon: allowing to this argument all the force which the most sanguine supporters of the antiquity can demand, it can have but little weight in opposition to the many strong and concurring indications of a contrary nature.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Laplace has remarked, that the mean motions of the lunar orbit are quicker in the Indian tables than in those of Ptolemy: which indicates that

**BOOK II.** 9. If the author of the "Astronomie Indienne" has succeeded in establishing any of his positions, it is in proving that the astronomy of the Brahmens is original, or at least that it has not been borrowed from any of the astronomical systems that we are acquainted with. This was a preliminary point which his favourite system required him to examine: for if the astronomy of the Brahmens had turned out to have an obvious affinity to the astronomical systems of Arabia or Greece, it would have been in vain to bring proofs of its antiquity. But how does this prove the antiquity of the Indian astronomy? It only proves that the inhabitants of the eastern world, separated from the rest of mankind, have made the same progress to a certain extent, which, in the western world, has been carried to a far greater pitch of perfection.<sup>1</sup>

## APPENDIX N<sup>o</sup>. II.

### *Colebrooke on Sanscrit Algebra.*

SINCE the pages relating to the science of the Hindus were sent to the press, has appeared a work entitled, "Algebra, with Arithmetic and Mensuration, from the Sanscrit of Brahmegupta and Bhascara; translated by Henry Thomas Colebrooke, Esq." No person, who takes an interest in the history of the human mind, can fail to recognise that Mr. Colebrooke has added largely to the former obligations he had conferred upon us, not only by laying open to European readers the most approved production on Algebra, in the Sanscrit language, but by the research and ability with which, in a preliminary dissertation, he has brought together the materials for forming an opinion, both respecting the origin of that science among the Hindus, and their merit in the prosecution of it.

the former tables were constructed posterior to those of the Greek astronomer. This argument is, at least, as strong as any of those by which the antiquity is supported.

The question discussed in this Appendix is not the antiquity of Hindu astronomy, but the soundness of Bailly's views in assigning to it an improbable antiquity. This does not affect the probability of its being the oldest system of which we are able to judge from authentic materials furnished by itself. Even Bentley, as before noticed, places the invention of the lunar mansions 1426 n.c., implying, necessarily, previous observation of the heavens, and classification of the heavenly bodies.—W.

On mathematics I must speak superficially, because BOOK II. my knowledge does not permit me to speak profoundly. CHAP. IX. Enough, I think, however, appears on the face of this subject, to enable me to resolve the only question, in the solution of which I am interested.

Mr. Colebrooke thinks it possible, nay, probable, that the Hindus derived their first knowledge of algebra from the Greeks; that they were made acquainted with the writings of Diophantus, before they had, of their own accord, made any attempts in the science; and that it is in the accessions which Algebra received in their hands, that their title, if any, to our respect, must, in this particular, look for its foundation.<sup>1</sup> That the Hindus cultivated astronomy, and the branches of the art of calculation to astronomy, solely for the purposes of astrology, is not disputed by anybody, and least of all by Mr. Colebrooke. That candid and careful inquirer has brought to light a very important fact, that even on the subject of astrology, on which they might have been supposed original, the Hindus have been borrowers, and borrowers from the Greeks.<sup>2</sup> "Joining," he says, "this indication,

<sup>1</sup> "If it be insisted, that a hint or suggestion, the seed of their knowledge, may have reached the Hindu mathematicians immediately from the Greeks of Alexandria, or mediately through those of Bactria, it must at the same time be confessed, that a slender germ grew and fructified rapidly, and soon attained an approved state of maturity in Indian soil. More will not be here contended for: since it is not impossible, that the hint of the one analysis may have been actually received by the mathematicians of the other nation: nor *unlikely*; considering the arguments which may be brought for a probable communication on the subject of astrology." Dissertation, p. xxii. This is an important admission, which Mr. Colebrooke was too well informed to overlook, and too honest to conceal. His partialities, however, lead him to a very useless effort of extenuation. Why call the knowledge which the Hindus derived of the Diophantine methods a *hint*? What should confine it to a *hint*? Why make use of the word *hint*? when it is perfectly clear that if they had the means of receiving a *hint*, they had the means of receiving the whole. The communication was full and complete between the Hindus and the Greeks, both of Bactria and of Egypt; and the Hindus had the means of receiving from the Greeks all those parts of their knowledge, which the state of civilization among the Hindus enabled them to imbibe. Of the exaggerating language of Mr. Colebrooke, on the other side, about the growing and fructifying of the germ, and its attaining a state of approved maturity in Indian soil, we shall speak by-and-by.

<sup>2</sup> He had stated long ago, "That astronomy was originally cultivated among the Hindus solely for the purposes of astrology: That one branch, if not the whole of their astrological science, was borrowed from the Arabians: And that their astronomical knowledge must, by consequence, have been derived from the same quarter." Asat. Res. ix. 376. And on the present occasion he says: "The position that astrology is partly of foreign growth in India; that is, that the Hindus have borrowed, and largely too, from the astrology of a more western region, is grounded, as the similar inference concerning a different branch of divination, on the resemblance of certain terms employed in both.

**BOOK II.** to that of the division of the zodiac into twelve signs, represented by the same figures of animals, and named by words of the same import, with the zodiacal signs of the Greeks; and taking into consideration the analogy, though not identity, of the Ptolemaic system, and the Indian one of excentric deferents and epicycles, no doubt can be entertained that the Hindus received hints from the astronomical schools of the Greeks."<sup>1</sup>

To draw, then, from the tracts which Mr. Colebrooke has translated, an inference to any high state of civilization among the Hindus, the three following propositions must, first, be established;

1. That the Greeks did not teach to the Hindus as much of the science as the works in question contain.

2. That the works are sufficiently old to render it impossible that the knowledge could have been borrowed from any modern source.

3. That the accessions made to the knowledge derived from the Greeks are so difficult, as not to have been made except by a people in a high state of civilization.

If all these propositions are not fully and entirely made out; if any weakness appears in the evidence of any one of them, the inference falls to the ground. Upon inquiry, it seems to come out, that for not one of them is the evidence sufficient, or trustworthy.

1. That the Hindus received from the Greeks all that the latter knew, is admitted by Mr. Colebrooke. It is also admitted by Mr. Colebrooke, that "Diophantus was acquainted with the direct resolution of affected quadratic equations, and of intermediate problems of the first degree; that he displays infinite sagacity and ingenuity in particular solutions; and that a certain routine is discernible in them."<sup>2</sup> It is unfortunately from Diophantus

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The mode of divination, called *Tdjaea*, implies by its very name its Arabian origin: Astrological prediction, by configuration of planets, in like manner, indicates, even by its Indian name, a Grecian source. It is denominated *Hord*, the second of three branches which compose a complete course of astronomy and astrology; and the word occurs in this sense in the writings of early Hindu astrologers.....The same term *hord* occurs again in the writings of the Hindu astrologers, with an acceptation—that of hour—which more exactly conforms to the Grecian etymon. The resemblance of a single term would not suffice to ground an inference of common origin, since it might be purely accidental. But other words are also remarked in Hindu astrology," etc. Algebra, etc., from the Sanscrit, Dissert. Notes and Illust. p. lxxx.

<sup>1</sup> Algebra, etc., from the Sanscrit, Dissert. Notes and Illust. pp. x. and xvi.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. pp. x. and xvi.

alone, that we derive any knowledge of the attainments of the Greeks in this branch of mathematics. It is no less unfortunate, that out of thirteen books which he wrote upon this subject, only six, or possibly seven, have been preserved. How does Mr. Colebrooke, know, that these other books of Diophantus did not ascend to more difficult points of the science?<sup>1</sup> He says, you have no right to infer that. True; but neither has he any right to infer the contrary. There is, however, another possibility, and a still more important one, which Mr. Colebrooke has altogether overlooked. Supposing that nothing more of Algebra was known to the Greeks, at the time of Diophantus, than is found in seven out of thirteen books of one author, which is a pretty handsome allowance; is it certain or is it probable, that when the Greeks had made so considerable a progress, they remained stationary? and, though the most ingenious and inventive people in the world, peculiarly at that time turned to mathematical and abstruse investigations, they made no addition through several generations, to what was taught them by Diophantus? This argument appears to be conclusive.

2. Mr. Colebrook has a very elaborate, complex, and in some parts obscure train of argument to prove the antiquity of certain points of algebraic knowledge among the Hindus. That it is not conclusive may be made to appear very certainly; it is only to be regretted that so many words are required.

The point is, to prove the antiquity of certain treatises which Mr. Colebrooke possesses; part under the name of Bhascara, one mathematician; part under that of Brahmagupta, another. He begins with Bhascara.

There are two treatises of astronomy, which bear the

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Hutton says, that Diophantus "knew the composition of the cube of a binomial..... In some parts of book vi. it appears that he was acquainted with the composition of the fourth power of the binomial root, as he sets down all the terms of it; and from his great skill in such matters, it seems probable that he was acquainted with the composition of other higher powers, and with other parts of Algebra, besides what are here treated of.... Upon the whole, this work is treated in a very able and masterly manner, manifesting the utmost address and knowledge in the solutions, and forcing a persuasion that the author was deeply skilled in the science of Algebra, to some of the most abstruse parts of which these questions or exercises relate. However, as he contrives his assumptions and notations, so as to reduce all his conditions to a simple equation, or at least a simple quadratic, it does not appear what his knowledge was, in the resolution of compound or affected quadratics." Mathematical Dictionary Art. Diophantus.

**BOOK II.** name of Bhascara, and which themselves affirm, that they  
**CHAP. IX.** were written at a particular time, corresponding to the middle of the twelfth century of the Christian era: Therefore the Treatise on Algebra, possessed by Mr. Colebrooke, was produced about the middle of the twelfth century. For this degree of antiquity, this is the whole of the evidence. Let us see what it is worth.

In the first place, the dates refer only to the astronomical treatises; not to the algebraic. The algebraic is indeed prefixed to the astronomic; but it is alleged by one of the commentators, and believed by Mr. Colebrooke, that it "may have been added subsequently." And then at what date subsequently, or by what hand, are questions to which we shall presently see that there is no answer.

In the next place, an important observation applies to the affirmations, with respect to their own age, found in the treatises on astronomy. From the known, the extravagant disposition of the Hindus to falsify with regard to dates, and make almost everything, with respect to their own transactions and attainments, more ancient than it is, such asseverations, found in books, or transcripts of books, are no proof of what is affirmed; and only deserve a moment's regard when fully corroborated by other circumstances. Not one circumstance is adduced to corroborate them by Mr. Colebrooke.

We come down, all at once, from the date of the work, to the date of the commentaries upon it. For none of them does Mr. Colebrooke claim a degree of antiquity beyond 200 or 300 years. Supposing this date to be correct, what reason has Mr. Colebrooke to infer that the work on which they comment, was, at the time of that commentary, 400 years? None, whatsoever. In nine instances out of ten, the commentator would be sure to speak of it as old, whether it was so or not. But further, what reason have we to believe that the date which he ascribes to these commentaries is the real one? Again the answer is, None; none that will bear examination. The date of the oldest is assumed upon the strength of an astronomical example, describing a particular state of the heavens; but this may be perfectly accidental; and, besides, the Hindus have the power of calculating backwards. Of the next

two, the date is assumed upon the strength of their own assertion: this we have shown is of no value. Of the next two the date is assumed upon the assertion of other books. This, if possible, is of less value. There are three others to which no date is assigned: and there are two commentaries upon the astronomical treatises, the date of which, too, rests upon their own assertion.

Neither to the treatise, therefore, in the hands of Mr. Colebrooke, nor to the commentaries upon it, has anything appeared, in what we have yet mentioned, which enables us to assign, with any degree of certainty, any one date in preference to any other. We may, if we please, assume that all of them in a body are less than a century old.

Beside the Sanscrit commentaries, there is a Persian translation, of each of the two treatises of Bhascara. In general, what is testified by Persian, is far more trustworthy than what rests upon Sanscrit authority; because there was more publicity in the Persian writings; whereas the Sanscrit, being wholly secret, and confined to a small number of Brahmens, accustomed and prone to forgery, there is security for nothing which they had any interest, real or imaginary, to change. If there was any evidence, therefore, to fix the dates of the Persian translations, we could not reasonably dispute a degree of antiquity corresponding to them. I suspect that there is no evidence to fix the dates of these translations. Mr. Colebrooke says, the one was made by order of the emperor Acber, the other in the reign of Shah Jehan. But he subjoins no reason for this affirmation. The cause probably is, that he had none; and that he took the conjecture from some date written somewhere in the book, nobody knows at what time, nobody knows by whom.

Such is the whole of the evidence which is adduced by Mr. Colebrooke to prove the antiquity of Bhascara. "The age of his predecessors," he adds, "cannot be determined with equal precision;" that is to say, the evidence which can be adduced for the antiquity of the other treatise, that of Brahmagupta, is still less conclusive, and less satisfactory. As we have seen that the better evidence proves nothing, I shall spare the reader a criticism to show, what he will easily infer, that the worse evidence

BOOK II. proves as little: evidence, which, as it is tedious and intricate, it would require a criticism of some length to unfold.

3. We come to the third of the propositions; that if the Hindus had discovered as much of algebra, as they know beyond what appears in the fragment of Diophantus, they must have been placed in a high state of civilization. That this proposition cannot be maintained, I expect to find universally acknowledged. I transcribe the passage from Mr. Colebrooke, in which he sums up the claims and pretensions of the Hindus. "They possessed well the arithmetic of surd roots; they were aware of the infinite quotient resulting from the division of finite quantity by cipher; they knew the general resolution of equations of the second degree, and had touched upon those of higher denomination, resolving them in the simplest cases, and in those in which the resolution happens to be practicable by the method which serves for quadratics; they had attained a *general solution* of indeterminate problems of the first degree; they had arrived at a method for deriving a multitude of solutions of answers to problems of the second degree from a single answer found tentatively."<sup>1</sup>

In all this it appears, that the only point in which there can be a pretence for their having gone beyond what we have in the fragment of Diophantus, is the *general solution* of indeterminate problems of the first degree. But, to quote Dr. Hutton once more, "Diophantus was the first writer on indeterminate problems. His book is wholly on this subject; whence it has happened that such kind of questions have been called by the name of Diophantine problems." Now, take the point at which the solution of indeterminate problems appears in the fragment of Diophantus, and the point at which it appears in the Sanscrit treatise, of whatever age, in the hands of Mr. Colebrooke; the interval between the two points is so very small, and the step is so easily made, that most assuredly far more difficult steps in the progress of mathematical science have been made in ages of which the civilization has been as low as that of the Hindus. Thales lived at a period when Greece was still uncultivated, and but just emerging from barbarism; yet he excelled the Egyptians in mathe-

<sup>1</sup> "Algebra;" &c. *ut supra*, *Dissert.* p. xiv.

matical knowledge, and astonished them by computing the height of the pyramids from the shadow. Pythagoras lived in the same age; and was a great inventor both in arithmetic and geometry. In astronomy, he made great discoveries, and maintained, we are told, the true system of the universe; that the sun is in the centre, and makes all the planets revolve about him. Regiomontanus was born in 1456, when the human mind was still, to a great degree, immersed in the darkness of the middle ages. Yet of him, Mr. Playfair says, "Trigonometry, which had never been known to the Greeks as a separate science, and which took that form in Arabia, advanced, in the hands of Regiomontanus, to a great degree of perfection; and approached very near to the condition which it has attained at the present day. He also introduced the use of decimal fractions into arithmetic, and thereby gave to that scale its full extent, and to numerical computation the utmost degree of simplicity and enlargement, which it seems capable of attaining."<sup>1</sup> Cardan was born in 1501, when assuredly much had not yet been gained of what deserves the name of civilization. "Before his time," says the same accomplished mathematician, "little advance had been made in the solution of any equations higher than the second degree. In 1545 was published the rule which still bears the name of Cardan; and which, at this day, marks a point in the progress of algebraic investigation, which all the efforts of succeeding analysts have hardly been able to go beyond."<sup>2</sup> Even Vieta, with all his discoveries, appeared at an early and ill-instructed age.

BOOK II.  
CHAP. IX.

In looking at the pursuits of any nation, with a view to draw from them indications of the state of civilization, no mark is so important, as the nature of the *End* to which they are directed.

Exactly in proportion as *Utility* is the object of every pursuit, may we regard a nation as civilized. Exactly in proportion as its ingenuity is wasted on contemptible and mischievous objects, though it may be, in itself, an ingenuity of no ordinary kind, the nation may safely be denominated barbarous.

<sup>1</sup> Suppl. Encycl. Brit. Dissert. Second, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 14.

**BOOK II.** According to this rule, the astronomical and mathematical sciences afford conclusive evidence against the Hindus. They have been cultivated exclusively for the purposes of astrology; one of the most irrational of all imaginable pursuits; one of those which most infallibly denote a nation barbarous; and one of those which it is the most sure to renounce, in proportion as knowledge and civilization are attained.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The authority of Professor Wallace is recognised by Mr. Mill, and his conclusions from Mr. Colebrooke's publication are of a very different complexion from those of the text. The Surya Siddhanta, he states, contains a very rational system of trigonometry. In expressing the radius of a circle in parts of the circumference, the Hindus are quite singular. Ptolemy and the Greek mathematicians, in their division of the radius, preserved no reference to the circumference. The use of sines, as it was unknown to the Greeks, forms a difference between theirs and the Indian trigonometry. Their rule for the computation of the lines is a considerable refinement in science first practised by the mathematician Briggs. However ancient a book may be in which a system of trigonometry occurs, we may be assured it was not written in the infancy of the science. Geometry must have been known in India long before the writing of the Surya Siddhanta. The age of Brahmagupta is fixed with great probability to the sixth or beginning of the seventh century of our era, a period earlier than the first dawn of Arabian sciences. Aryabhatta appears to have written as far back as the fifth century, or earlier; he was therefore almost as old as the Greek algebraist Diophantus. The Lillavati treats of Arithmetic, and contains not only the common rules of that science, but the application of these to various questions on interest, barter, mixtures, combinations, permutations, sums of progression, indeterminate problems, and mensuration of surfaces and solids. The rules are found to be exact, and nearly as simple as in the present state of analytical investigation. The numerical results are readily deduced; and if they be compared with the earliest specimens of Greek calculation, the advantages of the decimal notation are placed in a striking light. In geometry, though inferior in excellence to the algebra, there is much deserving of attention. We have here the celebrated proposition that the square on the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle is equal to the squares on the sides containing the right angle, and other propositions, which form part of the system of modern geometry. There is one proposition remarkable, namely, that which discovers the area of a triangle when its three sides are known. This does not seem to have been known to the ancient Greek geometers. In algebra the Hindus understood well the arithmetic of such roots, and the general resolution of equations of the second degree, which it is not clear that Diophantus knew—that they attained a general solution of indeterminate problems of the first degree—which it is certain Diophantus had not attained—and a method of deriving a multitude of answers to problems of the second degree when one solution was discovered by trial, which is as near an approach to a general solution as was made until the time of La Grange. Professor Wallace concludes by adopting the opinion of Playfair on this subject, "that before an author could think of embodying a treatise of algebra in the heart of a system of astronomy, and turning the researches of the one science to the purposes of the other, both must have been in such a state of advancement as the lapse of several ages and many repeated efforts of inventors were required to produce." This is unanswerable evidence in favour of the antiquity, originality, and advance of Hindu mathematical science, and is fatal to all Mr. Mill's references and conjectures. We have also historical evidence, that the Arabs derived their mathematical sciences in part from the Hindus; and we have every reason, from the differences of method, and in some instances superiority of progress, as well as from the absence of all evidence to the contrary, to conclude that the Hindus were as little indebted to the Greeks. A people who had pursued for ages researches of this nature, could not have been merely upon the threshold of civilization. The test of civilization proposed by Mr. Mill and the school to

## CHAP. X.

*General Reflections.*

**T**O ascertain the true state of the Hindus in the scale of **BOOK II.**  
**C**ivilization, is not only an object of curiosity in the **CHAP. X.**  
 history of human nature ; but to the people of Great Britain, charged as they are with the government of that great portion of the human species, it is an object of the highest practical importance.<sup>1</sup> No scheme of government can happily conduce to the ends of government, unless it is adapted to the state of the people for whose use it is intended. In those diversities in the state of civilization, which approach the extremes, this truth is universally acknowledged. Should anyone propose, for a band of roving Tartars, the regulations adapted to the happiness of a regular and polished society, he would meet with neglect or derision. The inconveniences are only more concealed, and more or less diminished, when the error relates to states of society which more nearly resemble one another. If the mistake in regard to Hindu society, committed by the British nation, and the British government, be very great; if they have conceived the Hindus to be a people of high civilization, while they have, in reality, made but a few of the earliest steps in the progress to civilization, it is impossible that in many of the measures pursued for the government of that people, the mark aimed at should not have been wrong.

The preceding induction of particulars, embracing the religion, the laws, the government, the manners, the arts,

which he belonged, "utility," will not be generally admitted in the restricted sense in which he employs the term ; but even that is inapplicable, for in the estimation of those nations amongst whom astrology was credited, what could in their eyes be more useful, than rules of conduct derived from astrological calculation. It is not true, however, that the mathematical sciences of the Hindus were applied to astrology alone, as the greater number of the results which their arithmetic, algebra, and geometry, and even their astronomy afford, have no relation to that kind of knowledge, but are indispensable to the ordinary purposes of social life.—W.

<sup>1</sup> The measures of the British Government have very little concern with what the Hindus were in the days of Manu ; what they are now is within their observation, and all that is required is to see them as they are without any bias from erroneous theories. Above all things, it is necessary for every purpose of wise and benevolent rule to see them with a bias rather in their favour than to their disadvantage. We shall not promote their advance in civilization by treating them as little better than barbarians.—W.

**BOOK II.** the sciences, and literature, of the Hindus, affords, it is presumed, the materials from which a correct judgment may, at last, be formed of their progress towards the high attainments of civilized life. That induction, and the comparisons to which it led, have occupied us long, but not longer, it is hoped, than the importance of the subject demanded, and the obstinacy of the mistakes which it was the object of it to remove.

The reports of a high state of civilization in the East, were common even among the civilized nations of ancient Europe. But the acquaintance of the Greeks and Romans with any of the nations of Asia, except the Persians alone, was so imperfect, and among the circumstances which they state so many are incredible and ridiculous, that in the information we receive from them on this subject, no confidence can be reposed.

Of the modern Europeans, the individuals who first obtained a tolerable acquaintance with any of the nations of the East, were the popish missionaries, chiefly the Jesuits, who selected China for the scene of their apostolical labours. Visiting a people who already composed a vast society, and exhibited many, though fallacious, marks of riches, while Europe, as yet, was everywhere poor; and feeling, as it was natural for them to feel, that the more they could excite among their countrymen an admiration of the people whom they described, the greater would be the portion of that flattering sentiment which would redound upon themselves, these missionaries were eager to conceive, and still more eager to propagate, the most hyperbolical ideas of the arts, the sciences, and institutions of the Chinese. As it is almost always more pleasing, and certainly far more easy, to believe, than to scrutinize; and as the human mind in Europe, at the time when these accounts were first presented, was much less powerful and penetrating, than it is at present, they were received with almost implicit credulity. The influence of this first impression lasted so long, that even to Voltaire, a keen-eyed and sceptical judge, the Chinese, of almost all nations, are the objects of the loudest and most unqualified praise.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Any thing proposed to us which causes surprise and admiration, gives such a satisfaction to the mind, that it indulges itself in those agreeable emotions, and will never be persuaded that its pleasure is entirely without foundation." (Hume, Treatise of Human Nature, i. 53.)

The state of belief in Europe has, through the scrutiny of BOOK II.  
facts been of late approximating to sobriety on the attain- CHAP. X.  
ments of the Chinese, and a short period longer will pro-  
bably reduce it to the scale of reason and fact.<sup>1</sup>

It was under circumstances highly similar, that the earliest of the modern travellers drew up and presented their accounts of Hindustan. The empire of the Moguls was in its meridian splendour. It extended over the principal part of India; and the court, the army, and the establishments of Akber or Aurungzebe, exhibited that gorgeous exterior, that air of grandeur and power, which were well calculated to impose upon the imagination of an unphilosophical observer.<sup>2</sup>

It was unfortunate that a mind so pure, so warm in the pursuit of truth, and so devoted to oriental learning, as that of Sir William Jones, should have adopted the hypothesis of a high state of civilization in the principal countries of Asia. This he supported with all the advantages of an imposing manner, and a brilliant reputation; and gained for it so great a credit, that for a time it would have been very difficult to obtain a hearing against it.

Beside the illusions with which the fancy magnifies the importance of a favourite pursuit, Sir William was actuated by the virtuous design of exalting the Hindus in the eyes of their European masters; and thence ameliorating the temper of the government; while his mind had scope for error in the vague and indeterminate notions which it still retained of the signs of social improvement. The term civilization was by him, as by most men, attached to no

<sup>1</sup> To this good effect, if to no other, the embassy of Lord Macartney, and the writings to which it has given occasion, have largely contributed. See Barrow's two works, *Travels in China*, and *Laws of Lord Macartney*; and, above all, that important document, a volume of the *Laws of China*, translated by Sir George Staunton. No one has more approximated to a correct judgment of the Chinese, than De Guignes. See *Voyage*.

<sup>2</sup> Many of the observations of Mr. Barrow upon the panegyrical accounts of the Chinese by the popish missionaries are very applicable to the flattering accounts which travellers have been so fond of giving us of the Hindus. "In the same breath that they extol the wonderful strength of filial piety, they speak of the common practice of exposing infants; the strict morality and ceremonious conduct of the people are followed by a list of the most gross debaucheries; the virtues and the philosophy of the learned are explained by their ignorance and their vices: if in one page they speak of the excessive fertility of the country, and the amazing extension of agriculture, in the next thousands are seen perishing with want; and whilst they extol with admiration the progress they have made in the arts and sciences, they plainly inform us that without the aid of foreigners they can neither cast a cannon nor calculate an eclipse." Barrow's *Travels in China*, p. 31.

**BOOK II.** fixed and definite assemblage of ideas. With the exception of some of the lowest states of society in which human beings have been found, it was applied to nations in all the stages of social advancement.<sup>1</sup>

CHAP. X. It is not easy to describe the characteristics of the different stages of social progress. It is not from one feature, or from two, that a just conclusion can be drawn. In these it sometimes happens that nations resemble each other which are placed at stages considerably remote. It is from a joint view of all the great circumstances taken together, that their progress can be ascertained; and it is from an accurate comparison, grounded on these general views, that a scale of civilization can be formed, on which the relative positions of nations may be accurately marked.

Notwithstanding all that modern philosophy had performed for the elucidation of history, very little had been attempted in this great department, at the time when the notions of Sir William Jones were formed;<sup>2</sup> and so crude were his ideas on the subject, that the rhapsodies of Rousseau, on the virtue and happiness of the savage life, surpass not the panegyrics of Sir William on the wild, comfortless, predatory, and ferocious state of the wandering

<sup>1</sup> One of the chief circumstances from which Sir William Jones drew conclusions respecting the high civilization of the Hindus, was the supposition that they never went abroad, a supposition which is now well known to have been erroneous. See *Asiat. Res.* vi. 531, and i. 271.

<sup>2</sup> The writings of Mr. Miller, of Glasgow, of which but a small part was then published, and into which it is probable Sir William had never looked, contained the earliest elucidations of the subject. The suggestions offered in his successive productions, though highly important, were but detached considerations applied to particular facts, and not a comprehensive induction, leading to general conclusions. Unfortunately the subject, great as its importance, has not been resumed. The writings of Mr. Miller remain almost the only source from which even the slightest information on the subject can be drawn. One of the ends which has at least been in view during the scrutiny conducted in these pages, has been to contribute something to the progress of so important an investigation. It is hoped that the materials which are here collected will be regarded as going far to elucidate the state of society in all the leading nations of Asia. Not only the Hindus, the Persians, the Arabians, the Turks, and Chinese of the present day, but the Hindus, Arabians, and Persians of ancient days, the Chaldeans, the Jews, and even the ancient Egyptians, may all be regarded as involved in the inquiry; and to these, with the sole exception of the wandering Tartars and the Hyperborean hordes, may be added the second-rate nations; the inhabitants of the eastern peninsula, and of the plains and mountains of Tibet. It is surprising, upon a close inspection, how extensively all these various nations, notwithstanding the dissimilarity in some of the more obvious appearances, resemble one another, in laws and institutions of government, in modes of thinking, in superstition and prejudices, in arts and literature, even in the external forms of manner and behaviour, and as well in ancient, as in modern times.

Arabs. "Except," says he, "when their tribes are engaged in war, they spend their days in watching their flocks and camels, or in repeating their native songs, which they pour out almost extempore, professing a contempt for the stately pillars and solemn buildings of the cities, compared with the natural charms of the country, and the coolness of their tents; thus they pass their lives in the highest pleasure, of which they have any conception, in the contemplation of the most delightful objects, and in the enjoyment of perpetual spring."<sup>1</sup> "If courtesy," he observes, "and urbanity, a love of poetry and eloquence, and the practice of exalted virtues, be a just measure of perfect society, we have certain proof that the people of Arabia, both on plains and in cities, in republican and monarchical states, were eminently civilized for many ages before their conquest of Persia."<sup>2</sup> We need not wonder if the man, who wrote and delivered this, found the Hindus arrived at the highest civilization. Yet the very same author, in the very same discourse, and speaking of the same people, declared, "I find no trace among them, till their emigration, of any philosophy but ethics;"<sup>3</sup> and even of this he says, "The distinguishing virtues which they boasted of inculcating, were a contempt of riches, and even of death; but in the age of the seven poets, their liberality had deviated into mad profusion, their courage into ferocity, and their patience into an obstinate spirit of encountering fruitless dangers."<sup>4</sup> He adds, "The only *arts* in which they pretended to excellence (I except horsemanship and military accomplishments) were poetry and rhetoric."<sup>5</sup> It can hardly be affirmed that these facts are less wonderful as regarding a people "eminently civilized;" a people exhibiting "a just measure of perfect society."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Essay on the Poetry of Eastern Nations.* Voltaire exclaimed, on reading Rousseau's panegyrics, "Jamais n'avais-je tant d'envie de marcher à quatre pattes."

<sup>2</sup> Sir W. Jones, Asiat. Res. ii. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 9.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Sir W. Jones, Asiat. Res. ii. p. 14.—"On this occasion, as well as on many others, the sober historian is forcibly wakened from a pleasing vision; and is compelled, with some reluctance, to confess that the pastoral manners, which have been adorned with the fairest attributes of peace and innocence, are much better adapted to the fierce and cruel habits of a military life." Gibbon, Decline and Fall, ch. xxvi. p. 342.

<sup>6</sup> In the same discourse Sir William further remarks: "That we have none of their compositions in prose before the Koran, may be ascribed, perhaps, to the little skill which they seem to have had in writing, to their predilection in favour of poetical measure, and the facility with which verses are committed

**BOOK II.** Among the causes which excited to the tone of eulogy  
**CHAR. X.** adopted with regard to the Hindus, one undoubtedly was,  
 the affectation of candour. Of rude and uncultivated  
 nations, and also of rude and uncultivated individuals, it  
 is a characteristic, to admire only the system of manners,  
 of ideas, and of institutions to which they have been accus-

to memory; but all their stories prove that they were eloquent in a high degree, and possessed wonderful powers of speaking, without preparation, in flowing and forcible periods." *Asiat. Res.* ii. p. 14. "Who," says Dr. Ferguson, "would from mere conjecture suppose, that the naked savage would be a coxcomb and a gamester; that he would be proud and vain, without the distinctions of title and fortune; and that his principal care would be to adorn his person, and to find an amusement? Even if it could be supposed that he would thus share in our vices, and, in the midst of his forest, vie with the follies which are practised in the town; yet no one would be so bold as to affirm that he would likewise in any instance excel us in talents and virtue; that he would have a penetration, a force of imagination and elocution, an ardour of mind, an affection and courage, which the arts, the discipline, and the policy of few nations would be able to improve. Yet these particulars are a part in the description which is delivered by those who have had opportunities of seeing mankind in their rudest condition: and beyond the reach of such testimony, we can neither safely take, nor pretend to give information on the subject." Ferguson's *Essay on the History of Civil Society*, part i. sect. 1.

The extreme inaccuracy and fluctuation of the ideas of European scholars, with respect to civilization, are curiously exemplified in their opinions of the Asiatic nations. Gibbon says, "The cavalry of Scythia was forced to yield to the admirable swiftness and spirit of the Arabian horses; their riders were skilled in the evolutions of irregular war; and the northern barbarians were astonished and dismayed by the inhuman ferocity of the barbarians of the south. A Gothic soldier was slain by the dagger of an Arab; and the hairy, naked savage, applying his lips to the wound, expressed a horrid delight, while he sucked the blood of his vanquished enemy." Gibbon, *Hist. of the Decl. and Fall*, etc., iv. 413. Of the various nations subject to the Persian sceptre, many of them still higher in civilization than the most civilized portion of the Arabians, the same author thus expresses himself: "It was here," says he, "in a place where the opposite banks cannot exceed 500 paces, that Xerxes imposed a stupendous bridge of boats, for the purpose of transporting into Europe 170 myriads of barbarians." *Ibid.* iii. 9. Of the Syrians and Egyptians, who still more nearly than the Arabians resembled the Hindus, and were acquainted with more of the arts which attain their perfection in civilized life, he says, "The use of their ancient dialects, by excluding them from the commerce of mankind, checked the improvements of these barbarians." *Ibid.* i. 62. (N.B. The same cause operated among the Hindus, and still more powerfully to the production of the same effects.) Mr. Halhed says, that the Jews, at the time of the Mosaic institutions, "were very little removed from a state of barbarism, gross in their conceptions, illiterate in their education, and uncultivated in their manners." *Preface to Code of Gentoo Laws*, p. xvii. And yet these institutions are not only superior to the institutions of the Hindus; they are in a high degree superior to the institutions of any other nation in Asia. But with the circumstances of Jewish society we become, through the medium of our religion, early and familiarly acquainted. No European is early, hardly any is ever familiarly acquainted with the other nations of Asia. No blind propensity, therefore, excites to admiration in the one case: several do so in the other. Among the authors who have followed Sir William Jones in his track of eulogy and admiration, it may be suspected, from the limited information of some, that they were unacquainted with the facts of uncivilized life, and wherever man exhibited the attributes of humanity belleried he must thereto be civilized; ignorant of the intense exercise which is given to several of the human faculties even among savages, and of the strength which those faculties must hence acquire.

tomed, despising others. The most cultivated nations of BOOK II. Europe had but recently discovered the weakness of this propensity. Novelty rendered exemption from it a source of distinction. To prove his superiority to the prejudices of home, by admiring and applauding the manners and institutions of Asia, became, therefore, in the breast of the traveller, a motive of no inconsiderable power.<sup>1</sup>

The nations of Europe became acquainted nearly about the same period, with the people of America, and the people of Hindustan. Having contemplated in the one, a people without fixed habitations, without political institutions, and with hardly any other arts than those indispensably necessary for the preservation of existence, they hastily concluded, upon the sight of another people, inhabiting great cities, cultivating the soil, connected together by an artificial system of subordination, exhibiting monuments of great antiquity, cultivating a species of literature, exercising arts, and obeying a monarch whose sway was extensive, and his court magnificent, that they had suddenly past from the one extreme of civilization to the other. The Hindus were compared with the savages of America ; the circumstances in which they differed from that barbarous people, were the circumstances in which they corresponded with the most cultivated nations ; other circumstances were overlooked ; and it seems to have been little suspected that conclusions too favourable could possibly be drawn.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> None of them has confessed the existence of this motive with more frankness than Le Gentil, Voy. II. 98. "Avant que j'eusse perdu mon clocher de vno, les François étoient mes héros. .... Quant à moi je suis guéri de mes préjugés, et je m'applaudis en secret de m'être détroussé."—Col. Dow boasts of being actuated by the same sentiments and scruples not to call Goths, or worse than Goths, all those who are not so : "In love with our own times and country," says he, "we are apt to consider distant ages and nations as objects unworthy of the page of the historian ..... Some men of genius have entertained sentiments upon that subject too narrow and confined for the Goths of a much darker age. Had the translator of the following history thought so meanly of the affairs of the East," etc. Dow's Hindostan, Preface.

<sup>2</sup> The account which Robertson gives of the causes which led to exaggerated conceptions in the mind of the Spaniards, respecting the civilization of the Mexicans, applies in almost every particular to those of the English and French respecting the Hindus. "The Spaniards," says he, "when they first touched on the Mexican coast, were so much struck with the appearance of attainments in policy and in the arts of life, far superior to those of the rude tribes with which they were hitherto acquainted, that they fancied that they had at length discovered a civilized people in the New World. This comparison between the people of Mexico and their uncultivated neighbours, they appear to have kept constantly in view, and observing with admiration many things which marked the pre-eminence of the former, they employed, in de-

**BOOK II.** The progress of knowledge, and the force of observation,  
**CHAP. X.** demonstrated the necessity of regarding the actual state  
 of the Hindus as little removed from that of half-civilized  
 nations. The saving hypothesis, however, was immediately  
 adopted, that the situation in which the Hindus are now  
 beheld is a state of degradation; that formerly they were  
 in a state of high civilization; from which they had fallen  
 through the miseries of foreign conquest and subjugation.

This was a theory invented to preserve as much as  
 actual observation would allow to be preserved, of a pre-  
 established and favourite creed. It was not an inference  
 from what was already known. It was a gratuitous  
 assumption. It preceded inquiry, and no inquiry was  
 welcome, but that which yielded matter for its support.<sup>1</sup>

To this purpose were adapted the pretensions of the  
 Brahmens, who spoke of an antecedent period, when the  
 sovereigns of Hindustan were masters of great power and  
 great magnificence. It was of importance to weigh these  
 pretensions; because the rude writers of rude nations have  
 almost always spoken of antecedent times as deserving all  
 the praise with which their powers of rhetoric or song  
 could exalt them. If the descriptions of antiquity pre-  
 sented by the Brahmens bore the consistent marks of  
 truth and reality, a degree of intrinsic evidence would  
 be attached to them. If these descriptions flew wide  
 of all resemblance to human affairs, and were nothing  
 but wild unnatural fictions, they would be so far from  
 proving an antecedent state of knowledge and civilization,  
 that they would prove the reverse. And, had the Hindus  
 remained fixed from the earliest stages in the semibar-  
 barous state, it is most certain that the Brahmens would

scribing their imperfect policy and infant arts, such terms as are applicable to  
 the institutions of men far beyond them in improvement. Both these circum-  
 stances concur in detracting from the credit due to the descriptions of Mexican  
 manners by the Spanish writers. By drawing a parallel between them and  
 those of people so much less civilized, they raised their own ideas too high.  
 By their mode of describing them, they conveyed ideas to others no less exalted  
 above truth. Later writers have adopted the style of the original historians,  
 and improved upon it." Hist. of America, ill. 320.

<sup>1</sup> "Le voyageur racontant ses aventures, cherche dans l'admiration de ceux  
 qui l'écoutent, un dédommagement aux dangers qu'il a courus; il enfe la  
 narration: Le savant, qui s'est donné beaucoup de peine pour apprendre des  
 langues étrangères et lointaines, s'extasie sur la beauté des ouvrages qu'il est  
 parvenu à entendre." Anquetil Duperron, Note, No. II. Supplément aux  
 Recherches, &c. sur l'Inde.

have given to us just such accounts of antiquity as those we have actually received at their hands.

BOOK II.  
CHAP. X.

As the Hindus have enlightened us by no record of antecedent events, and we thus have no immediate proof of their state of civilization, in the times that are past, the only sure ground of inference is the laws and institutions which they framed, the manners they adopted, and the arts and sciences to which they attended. If these great circumstances were at variance with the existing state of society, but adapted to one more advanced, the inference would certainly be a probable one, that to a period when society was in that improved condition, they really owed their birth. But in regard to the Hindus, their laws and institutions are adapted to the very state of society which those who visit them now behold. They are laws and institutions which, so far from importing any more perfect state of society, seem entirely inconsistent with it; such as could neither begin, nor exist, under any other than one of the rudest and weakest states of the human mind. As the manners, the arts and sciences of the ancient Hindus are entirely correspondent with the state of their laws and institutions, everything we *know* of the ancient state of Hindustar conspires to prove that it was rude.

It is another important fact, that, if the Hindus had ever been placed in this pretended state of civilization, we know of no such period of calamity, as was sufficient to reduce them to a state of ignorance and barbarity. The conquest of Hindustan, effected by the Mahomedan nations, was to no extraordinary degree sanguinary or destructive. It substituted sovereigns of one race to sovereigns of another, and mixed with the old inhabitants a small proportion of new; but it altered not the texture of society; it altered not the language of the country; the original inhabitants remained the occupants of the soil; they continued to be governed by their own laws and institutions; nay, the whole detail of administration, with the exception of the army, and a few of the more prominent situations, remained invariably in the hands of the native magistrates and officers.<sup>1</sup> The few occasions of the persecutions, to

<sup>1</sup> "The administration of justice has been almost universally, by the Mogul conquerors of Indostan, devolved upon the Mindus, the office of Duan being generally conferred upon one of that people. Orme on the Government and People of Indostan," p. 443. Although the Mogul Tartars under Tamerlane

**BOOK II.** which, under the reigns of one or two bigoted sovereigns,  
**CHAP. X.** they were subjected on the score of religion, were too short  
and too partial to produce any considerable effects.<sup>1</sup>

When we look for the particulars of those pretended reigns of mighty kings, the universal lords of India, under whom science flourished, and civilization rose to the greatest height, we meet with nothing but fable, more wild, and inconsistent, and hyperbolical, than is any where else to be found. From this no rational conclusion can be drawn, except that it is the production of a rude and irrational age. Bharat or Bharata, is said to have been the first universal sovereign of India, which from him

and his successors have at last rendered themselves lords of almost the whole of it (India); yet the original inhabitants have lost very little of their original character by the establishment of these strangers amongst them." Orme, Hist. of Milt. Transact. in Indostan. I. 2.—M. Mr. Mill may be excused for making such a mistake as to assert that under the Mohammedan Government, the offices of "magistrates," were filled by Hindus; he follows the authority of Orme, but Orme, though an excellent guide in all that relates to the European transactions which he beheld, must have been exceedingly ignorant of the character, and apparently of the languages of the people. His remark that the administration of Justice devolved upon the Hindus is most certainly erroneous, as no unbeliever could, consistently with the principles of the Mohammedan faith, have been intrusted with such duty, and the illustration he gives, that the office of Duan was generally conferred upon Hindus, is an amusing proof how little he understood what he was saying. The office of Duan or Dewan being entirely of a financial nature, and wholly unconnected with the administration of Justice.—W.

<sup>1</sup> It seems to have been a rash and foolish assimilation of the conquest of Hindostan by the Moguls to the overwhelming of the Roman empire by the northern nations, that alone could have suggested so gratuitous a supposition as that of the degradation of the Hindus from an improved to a barbarous state of society by the calamities of conquest. The two cases are totally dissimilar. By the successive inundations of the barbarians, the ancient inhabitants of the Roman provinces were well-nigh swept from the face of the earth. Every where they were strip of the possession of the land, and commonly reduced to the state of bondsmen and slaves. The ancient institutions entirely gave way, and were replaced by a set of institutions altogether new. The language of the conquerors in most places entirely supplanted, in all it so much altered the language of the people subdued or exterminated, as to impose upon it a different structure. Another circumstance is never to be forgotten. To such a degree of barbarity were the inhabitants of the Roman provinces degraded, by the long-continued effects of a detestable government, that the intruders had really not so much to accomplish to reduce them to the same level with themselves. This was abundantly seen in the state of the Greeks of the eastern empire; who, upon their very first subjugation to the Turks, exhibited a condition not greatly different from that in which they grovel at the present day. The conquest to which, with greatest propriety, that of the Hindus by one tribe of Tartars might be compared would be the conquest of the Chinese by a similar tribe of Tartars. There is no reason to think that the one was a conquest of a more destructive nature than the other. If the Moguls did not adopt the religion and institutions of the Hindus, it was because the religion and institutions of the Hindus admitted of no participation, and because the Moguls had already embraced a more enlightened faith. See Francis's Minute, p. 30: also the treatise of Mr. Grant, on the Character of the Hindus, printed by order of the House of Commons in 1813.

derived its name ; India being, in the language of the natives, Bharata Versh. In this, however, as usual, the Hindu accounts contradict themselves, since Bharat is represented as preceding Rama, the son of Cush, who, according to Sir William Jones, might have established the *first* regular government in India.<sup>1</sup> Judhishter is another of these universal sovereigns ; but of him even the origin is allegorical ; he is the son of Dherma, or the god of justice, and he reigned 27,000 years. The name, with which, chiefly, the idea of the universal sovereignty of India, and the glory of art and science, is combined, is that of Vicramaditya. Of him, let us hear what is represented ; and then we shall be enabled to judge. "The two periods," says Captain Wilford, "of Vicramaditya and Salivahana are intimately connected ; and the accounts we have of these two extraordinary personages are much confused, teeming with contradictions and absurdities to a surprising degree. In general the Hindus know but of one Vicramaditya ; but the learned acknowledge four ; and when, at my request, they produced written authorities, I was greatly surprised to find no less than eight or nine.—Vicramaditya made a desperate *tapasya*, in order to obtain power and a long life from Calidevi, and as she seemingly continued deaf to his entreaties, he was going to cut off his own head, when she appeared, and granted him undisturbed sway over all the world for one thousand years, after which a divine child, born of a virgin, and the son of the great Tacshaca, carpenter or artist, would deprive him both of his kingdom and of his life. This would happen in the year of the Cali-yug, 3101, answering to the first of the Christian era. The history of these nine worthies, but more particularly when considered as a single individual, is a most crude and undigested mass of heterogeneous legends, taken from the apocryphal gospel of the infancy of Christ, the tales of the Rabbis and Talmudists concerning Solomon, with some particulars about Muhammed ; and the whole is jumbled together with some of the principal features of the history of the Persian kings, of the Sassanian dynasty. Thus Vicrama is made contemporary with Solomon : and like him, he is said to have found the great *mantra*, spell or talisman ; through

<sup>1</sup> Asiat. Res. I. 258.

**BOOK II.** which he ruled over the elements, and spirits, of all denominations, who obeyed him like slaves. Like Solomon he had a most wonderful throne, supported and adorned with lions, who are endued with reason and speech. We read in the *Vetala-pancha-vinsati*,<sup>1</sup> that it was through the assistance of the great *Vetala*, or devil, that two *Vicramadityas* obtained the empire of the world, a long life, with unlimited sway. They performed the puja in his honour, offered sacrifices, and in short dedicated or gave themselves up to him.<sup>2</sup> On this foundation of historical matter is built the magnificent fabric of a great and universal monarchy, the reign of the arts and sciences, all that embellishes human life, and augments the human powers. Such being the premises, and such the conclusion, are they not admirably adapted to one another? The legend speaks, and that loudly, and distinctly, what it is; the creation of a rude and uncultivated fancy, exerting itself to rouse the wonder of a rude and uncultivated age, by a recital of actions, powers, and events, swelled beyond the measure of human nature; profiting by all the hints which the legends or history of other nations supplied to furnish out its story, and by appropriating the wonderful deeds of all the world to gratify the barbarous vanity of the people to whom the story was addressed. If the historian gave to his hero a reign of a thousand years; it was quite in the same temper, and conducive to the same end, to give him the sovereignty of all India; and not only of all India, but, as we see was the fact, the sovereignty of the whole world. This is precisely the course which a wild and ignorant mind, regarding only the wonder which it has it in view to excite, naturally, in such cases, and almost universally, pursues. Such legends, if they existed in myriads, are no more a proof of a monarchy common to all India, which they do not assert, than of the universal monarchy of the whole world, or of the thousands or the myriads of years to one reign, which they expressly assert.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Here again the Historian is misled by his authority.—No Hindu ever proposed the twenty-five stories of a demon, as history; all the confusion, too, that arises out of multiplied *Vikramadityas*, is Wilford's work:—not that of the Hindu traditions, which are simple and consistent.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Essay on *Vicramaditya* and *Salivahana*, by Capt. Wilford, *Asiat. Res.* ix. 117 to 120.

<sup>3</sup> If we examine the chronological table of the Hindu kings, presented us by

The very lists which are found in the books of the Hindus, filled up with the names of successive monarchs, are the creation of the fancies of the writers, and are formed without any reference to facts. In enumerating the authorities from which he drew his materials, in the essay on Vicramaditya and Salivahana, he says, "The fourth list has been translated into all the dialects of India, and now-modelled at least twenty different ways, according to the whims and pre-conceived ideas of every individual who chose to meddle with it. It is, however, the basis and ground-work of modern history among the Hindus; as in the *Khalāset-ul-Tuwarikh* and the *Tadkerat-us-sulatin*. The latter treatise is a most perfect specimen of the manner of writing history in India; for, excepting the above list, almost everything else is the production of the fertile genius of the compiler. In all these lists the compilers and revisers seem to have had no other object in view, but to adjust a certain number of remarkable epochs. This being once effected, the intermediate spaces are filled up with names of kings not to be found any where else, and most probably fanciful. Otherwise they leave out the names of those kings of whom nothing is recorded, and attribute the years of their reign in some among them better known, and of greater fame. They often do not scruple to transpose some of those kings, and even whole dynasties; either in consequence of some pre-conceived opinion, or owing to their mistaking a famous king for another of the same name. It was not uncommon with ancient writers, to pass from a remote ancestor to a remote descendant; or from a remote predecessor to a remote successor, by leaving out the intermediate generations or successions, and sometimes ascri-

Sir William Jones, we shall find Vicramaditya placed at an era posterior to the Mussulman conquests.

|  | Years. |
|--|--------|
| From Chandragupta to the end of the Maurya race (As. Res. II. 139)....   | 137    |
| From the beginning to the end of the Sunga (Ibid. p. 140) .....          | 112    |
| From the ditto to ditto of the Canna (Ibid.).....                        | 345    |
| From ditto to ditto of Andra (ending with Chandrabhja) (Ibid. p. 141) .. | 456    |
| From Chandrabhja to Vicramaditya (Ibid. p. 142) .....                    | 396    |

From Chandragupta to Vicramaditya..... 1446  
 Now Seleucus, who was contemporary with Chandragupta (Asiat. Res. iv. xxvi.), began to reign about 300 years before Christ. By this chronology, therefore, Vicramaditya began to reign about 1146 years after Christ.

**BOOK II.** bring the years of their reigns to a remote successor or  
**CHAR. X.** predecessor. In this manner the lists of the ancient kings of Persia, both by oriental writers, and others in the west, have been compiled : and some instances of this nature might be produced from Scripture. I was acquainted lately, at Benares, with a chronicler of that sort ; and in the several conversations I had with him, he candidly acknowledged that he filled up the intermediate spaces between the reigns of famous kings, with names at a venture ; that he shortened or lengthened their reigns at pleasure ; and that it was understood, that his predecessors had taken the same liberties. Through their emendations and corrections, you see plainly a total want of historical knowledge and criticism ; and sometimes some disingenuousness is but too obvious. This is, however, the case with the sections on futurity in the Bhagavat, Vayu, Vishnu, and Brahmanda Puranas ; which with the above lists constitute the whole stock of historical knowledge among the Hindus ; and the whole might be comprised in a few quarto pages of print”<sup>1</sup>

Such is the mode, in which the authors of the Puranas supply themselves with a convenient quantity of *ordinary* kings : Mr. Wilford affords most satisfactory information with regard to the manner in which they further supply themselves with *extraordinary* ones. “The propensity,” says he, “of the Hindus, to appropriate every thing to themselves, is well known. We have noticed before their claims to Bahram-Gûr and his descendants ; and in the same manner they insist that Acbar was a Hindu in a former generation. The proximity of the time in which this famous emperor lived, has forced them, however, to account for this in the following manner :—There was a holy Brahmen, who wished very much to become emperor of India ; and the only practicable way for him was to die first, and be born again. For this purpose he made a desperate *Tapasya*, wishing to remember then every thing he knew in his present generation. This could not be fully granted ; but he was indulged with writing upon a brass plate a few things which he wished more particularly to remember ; then he was directed to bury the plate, and

<sup>1</sup> *Essay on Vicramaditya, and Salivahana*, by Captain Wilford, *Asst. Res. Ex. 132, 133.*

promised that he would remember the place in the next generation. Mucunda, for such was his name, went to Allahabad, buried the plate, and then burned himself. Nine months after he was born in the character of Acbar, who, as soon as he ascended the throne, went to Allahabad, and easily found the spot where the brass plate was buried. Thus the Hindus claim Muhammed and Acbar as their own ; exactly like the Persians of old, who insisted that Alexander was the son of one of their kings; so that after all they were forced to submit to their countrymen only."<sup>1</sup>

The account of the claim to Bahram-Gûr, mentioned in the beginning of the preceding passage, is extremely important on the present occasion ; as it shows us that Vicramaditya, whom the legend makes sovereign of the world, and the believers in the great Hindu monarchy take for emperor of Hindustan, was in reality a King of Persia, borrowed by the Brahmens, from their propensity to appropriate every thing remarkable which they heard of in the world. "One of these Vicramas," says Mr. Wilford, speaking of the different persons in whom this Vicramaditya appears, "was really a Sassanian Prince : and the famous Shabour or Sapor, of that dynasty, who took the emperor Valens prisoner."<sup>2</sup> The story is as follows :— "In Gurjara-mandalam are the Sabharmati and Mahi rivers ; between them is a forest, in which resided Tamralipta-rishi, whose daughter married King Tamrasena. They had six male children and one daughter called Mandava-recha. The king had two young lads, called Devas'arma and Harisarma, whose duty chiefly was to wash, every day, the clothes of their master, in the waters of the nearest river. One day, as Devas'arma went, by himself, for that purpose, he heard a voice, saying, tell Tamrasena to give me his daughter ; should he refuse me he will repent it. The lad on his return mentioned the whole to his master, who would not believe it, and the next day sent Harisarma to the river, who heard the same voice also, with the threats in case of a refusal. The King was astonished ; and going himself heard the voice also.

<sup>1</sup> Essay on Vicramaditya, and Salivahana, by Capt. Wilford, Asiat. Res. ix. 158, 159.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 149.

**BOOK II.** On his return he assembled his council ; and after consulting together, it was agreed, that the king should go again, and ask him who he was. The supposed spirit being questioned, answered, I am a Gand'harva, or heavenly chorister ; who, having incurred Indra's displeasure, was doomed to assume the shape of an ass. I was born in that shape, in the house of a cumbhacara, or potter, in your capital city ; and I am daily roving about in quest of food. The king said that he was very willing to give him his daughter ; but that he conceived that such an union was altogether impossible while he remained in that shape. The Gand'harva said, Trouble not yourself about that ; comply with my request, and it shall be well with you. If, says the king, you are so powerful, turn the walls of my city, and those of the houses, into brass ; and let it be done before sun-rise to-morrow. The Gand'harva agreed to it, and the whole was completed by the appointed time ; and the king of course gave him his daughter. This Gand'harva's name was Jayanta, the son of Brahma. When cursed by Indra, he humbled himself ; and Indra relenting, allowed him to resume his human shape in the night time, telling him that the curse should not be done away till somebody had burned his ass-like frame. The mother of the damsel spied them once in the night ; and, to her great joy, found that the Gand'harva dallied with her daughter in a human shape. Rejoiced at this discovery, she looked for his ass-like form, and burned it. Early in the morning, the Gand'harva looked for this body of his, and found that it had been destroyed. He returned immediately to his wife, informing her of what had happened, and that his curse being at an end, he was obliged to return to heaven, and leave her. He informed her also that she was with child by him, and that the name of the child was to be Vicramaditya.<sup>1</sup> After the statement of some other particulars, Mr. Wilford says, "This is obviously the history of Yesdegird, son of Bahram-Gür, or Bahram the ass, King of Persia: the grand features are the same, and the times coincide perfectly.<sup>2</sup> The amours

<sup>1</sup> Essay on Vicramaditya, and Salivahana, by Captain Wilford, *Asiat. Res.* ix. 147, 148, 149.

<sup>2</sup> These are not the accounts of Vicramaditya, which the Hindus call upon us to believe. They are avowedly tales and fables having no connexion with a celebrated prince, except the emplidment of his name. There is no

of Bahram-Gür, with an Indian princess, are famous all over Persia, as well as in India."<sup>1</sup> Such are the accounts of Vicramaditya, from which we are called upon for our belief of an universal monarchy, and a period of civilization and knowledge.<sup>2</sup>

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reason whatever to confound him with Bahram-Gür. The story of the transformation of the Gand'harva is a mere popular tradition current in the west of India, the origin of which may be accounted for. The Puranas notice a dynasty of modern princes called Gardabhas, and the word happening to signify "an ass," has no doubt given rise to the tale of the transformation of the Gand'harba to that animal.—W.

<sup>1</sup> *Essay on Vicramaditya, and Sallvahana*, by Captain Wilsford, Asiat. Res. ix. p. 149.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Wilsford presents us also with the history which the Brahmins have manufactured for placing Mohamed among the great men of Hindustan. It is of much importance, to elucidate the accounts, which are given by the Hindus, not only of the actions, but of the very persons and existence of their pretended heroes. I should otherwise have been pleased to omit a story, tainted with that indelicacy which, even when they are inventing, and have the circumstances at their own selection, marks the writings of an uncultivated people. "The Hindus say, that the son of a certain King of India, being disgusted with the world, turned pilgrim, and went to Mocheswarast'hana (or Mecca). In his way thither, and in Arabia, he stopped at the house of a Brahmen, who received him kindly, and ordered his daughter to wait on him as usual. Whilst asleep, the cloth with which his loins were covered was accidentally defiled. When he awoke, he took it off, and concealed it in a corner of the house, in some hole, and out of the sight of the damsel, as he thought. Being from home, to perform his ablutions, in consequence of this nocturnal defilement, the damsel came at the usual hour; and her courses suddenly making their appearance, she was much distressed, and looking everywhere for some cloth, she spied the bundle—in short she conceived. He departed for Mecca: and some months after, the parents of the damsel and herself were thrown into the greatest confusion, as may be imagined. The holy man was considered as the author of their disgrace; though the damsel exculpated him: Yet she could not account for her present situation. She was like Hagar, turned out of the house into the wilderness with her son: where they were miraculously preserved, both being innocent. Some years after the holy man returned, unconscious of his having been the cause of so much uneasiness to the family of the hospitable Brahmen. After much abuse, the matter was explained; but the son of the damsel could not be admitted to share with his relatives, or even to remain in their communion. He was, however, honourably dismissed with his mother, after they had given him a suitable education, and rich presents; and they advised him to shift for himself, and to set up a new religion, as he could not be considered as a member of the old one, on account of his strange birth, or rather conception. When advanced in years, he wished to see his paternal relations and India; and to persuade them to conform to his new doctrine; but he died in his way thither, at Medina, near Candahar. This Medina is Ghazni, called emphatically the second Medina, from the great number of holy men entombed there: and it is obvious that the Hindus have confounded Muhammed with Sultan-Mahmood, whose sumptuous Mausoleum is close to that city. Thus we see, that the account they give of Muhammed is a mere rhapsody, retaining some of the principal features of the history of Ishmael, Hagar, Muhammed himself, and Sultan-Malimood.—This Samvat, or era, of Maha'bhat (Muhammed), was early introduced into India, and the Hindus were obliged to use it, as they do now in all their civil transactions; and thus Muhammed became at least a Sambatica or Santica. According to the rules laid down by the learned in India, Muhammed is certainly a Saca and Saceswara, and is entitled to the epithet of Vicrama. He is a Saca, or mighty chief; and, like other Sacas, he killed his millions; he is Saceswara, or the ruler of a sacred period, still in use in India. For these reasons, the Pandits, who assisted Abul-Fazl, did

**BOOK II.** Our experience of human nature, and the phenomena which are exhibited under the manners, attainments, and institutions of the Hindus, are the only materials from which a rational inference can be drawn. It is by no means impossible for a people, who have passed but a small number of stages in the career of civilization, to be united extensively, under one government, and to remain steady for a great length of time in that situation. The empire of China is one conspicuous proof; the ancient kingdom of Persia, which for several ages stood exempt from revolution, is another. The Ottoman empire may be considered as a similar instance. And the Russians,

not scruple to bestow the title of Vicramaditya upon him; and even to consider him as the real worthy of that name; and in order to make the era, or at least the time of Vicramaditya's appearance coincide with the era of Mohammed, they have most shamefully distorted the chronology of the appendix to the Agni-purana. Mr. Wilford, *Asiat. Res.* ix. 159, 160, 161. See a still more extraordinary attempt to foist the story of Jesus Christ, borrowed from the spurious gospels, into the Puranas; and to make Christ at one time Cri-bus, at another time Saliyahana, at another time Buddhar. *Essay on the Origin and Decline of Christianity in India*, by Captain Wilford, *Asiat. Res.* x.

It would thus appear that Vicramaditya is a sort of an appellative, and is applied to any character, whether real or imaginary, whom it suited the Brahmins to erect into a hero; and whether it was originally the name of some Hindu prince who had greatly distinguished himself, or of pure invention, it is altogether useless to inquire. That this name has been attached to a particular era, in one of the numerous Hindu modes of dating, establishes nothing. What we do not know is—for what cause they adopted such an era: What we do know is—that they would very naturally apply to it the appellative Vicramaditya, whatever the cause. And no one can doubt the absurdity of supposing that the cause was a particular prince, contemporary at once with Solomon, with Jesus Christ, with Sapor, and with Mohammed.

What the Brahmins fable, about an universal monarchy, and the celestial glory of this or that pretended hero, can therefore be regarded as; no evidence of the facts which they assert. The propensity of the Hindus to exaggeration is everywhere displayed. "The officers of government here," says Dr. Buchanan, "had the impudence to inform me, that according to Chica Deva Raya's valuation of the country which belonged to Nandi Raj, it contained 32,000 villages. .... The account here given seems to be one of those gross exaggerations common in India, and is entirely contradicted by the accounts which I received from the revenue office at Seringapatam." *Journey through Mysore, &c.* ii. 97. In other places the native officers told him lies, contradicted by the very facts presented to their and his eyes, at the moment of delivering them. "Among the natives, however," he remarks, "similar departures from the truth are common." Ibid. p. 126, 137. Vicramaditya is indeed, expressly, at times asserted, not to have been King of all India, but only of a certain portion of it in the west. "The author of the Vicrama-Upac'hyna says, that he was a powerful prince, in the west of India, and possessed of the countries which we find, afterwards, constituting the patrimonial territories of the Bahaura, which included Gurjara-ht'a (or Gujrat) with some adjacent districts." *Essay on Vicramaditya, &c.* by Captain Wilford, *Asiat. Res.* ix. 149.—M.

Where Wilford picked up all this nonsense cannot be ascertained; it was probably manufactured for him. No trace of it has been ever met with by any other Sanscrit scholar. I have elsewhere remarked that the appendix of the Agni Purând has never yet made its appearance in any collection of Sanscrit manuscripts.—W.

barbarous people, have long formed a very extensive monarchy. It would, therefore, be far from evidence of any higher civilization, among the Hindus, than what they now manifest, had the existence of a great monarchy been proved.<sup>1</sup> Among uncivilized nations, however, it is most common to find a perpetual succession of revolutions, and communities in general small; though sometimes a prince or individual with uncommon talents arises; and, acquiring power, extends his authority over several of those communities; or even, as in the case of Charlemagne, over a great number; while, after his death the large empire which he had erected gradually dissolves, till the whole, or the greater part, is re-divided into small communities as before. Every thing which the Europeans have seen in Hindustan conspires to prove that such subdivision of communities, and occasional and temporary extensions of power in particular hands, have composed the history of that country. The Mahratta empire affords a striking example of those changes which seem natural to the circumstances in which the people are placed. Within the period of the modern intercourse of the Europeans with Hindustan, an aspiring individual was enabled to extend his authority partly by persuasion, partly by force, first over one district, and then over another, till at last he united under his command an extensive empire, composed chiefly of the separate and disjointed communities, who occupied the mountainous districts in the western and central parts of Hindustan.<sup>2</sup> Soon was this empire broken

<sup>1</sup> If the existence of a great monarchy be no proof of civilization, the pains that are here taken to disprove its existence in India, have been somewhat superfluous; and, in any case, it is with the theories of European writers, not the assertion of the Hindus themselves, that the dispute is maintained. As to the question of civilization, however, it in truth appears to be little influenced by extent of territory, and in some cases, as in ancient Greece, the division of the country amongst a number of petty principalities and communities, seems to have been favourable to social advancement.

The ancient state of India was, for the most part, no doubt, such as it has been known to be in later times: it was held by a number of independent princes, whose dominions varied in extent according to their personal character. At times, however, one more ambitious and able than the rest, does seem to have brought a very considerable portion of the country under 'one umbrella.' The edicts of Asoka are found engraven on the column of Delhi, the rocks of Orissa, and the mountains of Guzerat.—W.

<sup>2</sup> The word Hindustan is, in this work, generally used to signify, comprehensively, the land of the Hindus, from Cape Comorin to the farthest boundary of the country which they inhabited. It is necessary to mention, that in the oriental books, it has often a more limited signification, being appropriated to that part of the land of the Hindus which is north of the river Nerbudda.



Of the unsparing and destructive cruelty which accompanied the perpetual wars and conquests of the Hindus, among other proofs, the following may be considered as strong. In the inscription found at Tanna, part of the panegyric bestowed upon the donor Prince, is in these words: "Having raised up his slain foe on his sharp sword, he so afflicted the women in the hostile palaces, that their forelocks fell disordered, their garlands of bright flowers dropped from their necks on the vases of their breasts, and the black lustre of their eyes disappeared; a warrior, the plant of whose fame grows up over the temple of Brahma's egg (the universe) from the-repentant-watering-of-it-with-the-drops-that-fall-from-the-eyes-of-the-wives-of-his-slaughtered-foe."<sup>1</sup> It would be in the highest degree absurd to reject this, were it even a solitary instance, as evidence of a general fact; because the exterminating ferocity is described as matter of the highest praise; and panegyric, to be what it is, must be conformable to the ideas of the people to whom it is addressed.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ASIAT. RES. I. 350. It is a mere common place; and, after all, what does it mean? That the women of the prince, or the people of a subjugated country, will have cause to grieve for the loss of those killed in battle; a mere truism, denoting unsparing cruelty no more than the same event in all times and places. On the other hand, the Hindu 'laws' of war are very chivalrous and humane, and prohibit the slaying of the unarmed, of women, of the old, and of the conquered — Manu, etc. Their practice has been found, in general, conformable to their laws; and for sanguinary cruelty, and the abuse of victory, Mahometan Islam, not Hindu princes, must be cited.—W.

<sup>2</sup> The inscription on the Lat (staff) of Firoz Shah, celebrates the monarch, in whose honour it has been erected, "for having achieved conquest in the course of travelling to holy places—as resolute to haughty kings, and indulgent to those whose necks are humbled—making Ariaverta [the land of virtue or of respectable men] once more what its name signifies, by causing the Larvians to be exterminated.—Vishal Deva, son of the fortunate Vella Deva, king of Sacauhara, the situation of which the translator does not know, most eminent of the tribe which sprang from the arms of Brahma—hearts of having rendered tributary the region of the earth between Himavat (the Imaus of ancient geographers) and Vindhya (the range of hills which passes through the provinces of Bihar, Benares) and exhorts his descendants to subdue the remainder."—No proof, all this, of the peaceful state of Hindostan. The inscription continues—"May thy abode, O Vigraha, sovereign of the earth, be fixed, as in reason it ought, in the bosoms, akin to the mansions of dalliance, of the women with beautiful eye-brows, who were married to thy enemies."—The abuse of an enemy's wives is no great proof of a generous or civilized conqueror. The inscription then deifies this same Rajah. "Art thou not Vishnu himself? Art thou not he who slept in the arms of Lachmi, whom thou didst seize from the ocean, having churned it?"—Are epithets of extravagant praise to the deity surprising, when they are thus heaped upon a mortal? (ASIAT. RES. II. 352.) The account of the Sacas affords important proof of the glory that was attached by the Hindus to the shedding of blood. The Call-yug is divided into six Sacas, so called from six glorious monarchs. Of these, three have made their appearance; three are yet to come. To become a Sac, each of these monarchs must have first killed 660,000,000 of a certain mighty tribe of heretics, called Sacis. The first of these blood-thirsty sovereigns was Judish-

BOOK II.  
CHAP. X.

The picture which Major Rennel, looking only to a limited period, drew of the state of Hindustan, may be taken, agreeably to every thing which we know of Hindustan, as the picture of it, to the remotest period of its history.<sup>1</sup> Rebellions, massacres, and barbarous conquests, make up the history of this fair country, (which to an ordinary observer seems destined to be the paradise of the world)—the immediate effect of the mad ambition of conquering more than can be governed by one man.<sup>2</sup> “Revolutions,” (says Sonnerat, directing his attention to the coast of Malabar, which had been little affected by foreign conquest) “have been more rapid in this than in any other part of the globe. A daring robber, possessed of policy and courage, in a short time gives laws to the whole coast, but in his turn becomes tributary to a bolder villain, who marching in the same path, subjects him to the lot he had inflicted on others.”<sup>3</sup>

Notwithstanding, in other respects, the extreme scantiness and uncertainty of the materials for any inferences except the most general, in regard to the ancient state of Hindustan, there is a great body of evidence to prove the habitual division of the country into a number of moderate, and most frequently, petty sovereignties and states.<sup>4</sup> In the dramatic poem Sacontala, the daughter of the her-

ter, whose period was 3044 years; the second Vicramaditya, whose saka lasted only 135 years; the third, Salivahana, whose period is to last 18,000 years; the fourth Nandada, 10,000 years; the fifth Nargarjuna, 400,000 years; for the sixth, will re-appear the Antediluvian Ball, whose period will be 821 years, at which period a general renovation of the world will take place. Wilford, Asiat. Res. ix. 82.

<sup>1</sup> Rennell, in speaking of India under the Mohammedans.

<sup>2</sup> Rennell's Memoir, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Sonnerat, Voy. Irv. III. ch. ii. Their very laws and religion encourage a spirit of restlessness, and warfare; “Fully performing all duties required by law, let a king seek to possess regions yet unpossessed.” (Laws of Menu, ch. ix. 251.) This gives implicit encouragement to a spirit of conquest. The gloss of Culucca, the commentator, inserts the words *with justice*, a saving clause; but even then, the practical effect of the law is but too visible.

<sup>4</sup> In the Bhagavat, (See Maurice, Hist. of Hindustan, II. 395,) Creeshna says, he does not vaunt, “though he carried away Rokemenee from so numerous an assemblage of monarchs.” When Creeshna fought with the seven bulls of Koosle, great numbers of rajahs and rajpoots were collected to see the conflict. Ib. p. 402. Bhoom Assoor had collected the daughters of 16,000 rajahs, Ib. p. 405. Rajah Doorjoodhen, sovereign of Hastanapoor, had a daughter who was courted by rajahs and rajpoots from every quarter, Ib. 413. Twenty thousand and eight hundred rajahs of eminence were held in confinement by Jarasandha, and released upon his destruction by Creeshna and Rama, Ib. p. 433. When Creeshna carried away Rokemence, Jarasanda said, “This is surely most astonishing, that, in the presence of so many crowned heads as are here assembled, this coward should make so bold an effort.” Ib. p. 394.

mit asks the royal stranger, who had visited their consecrated grove; "What imperial family is embellished by our noble guest? What is his native country? Surely it must be afflicted by his absence from it?" The question undoubtedly implied that there were more royal families than one to which he might belong, and these at no remarkable distance, since the stranger was known to have come into the forest in the course of a hunting excursion. In the Hitopadesa, mention is made of a variety of princes. Thus in the compass of a few pages, we are told: "In the country of Calinga is a prince, named Ruemangada, who, advancing with preparations to subdue the adjacent regions, has fixed his station near the river Chandra-bhaga."<sup>1</sup> Again, "In the country of Canyacubja is a prince named Virasena."<sup>2</sup> And further, "There is near the Bhagirathi, a city, named Pataliputra, in which lived a prince named Sudersana."<sup>3</sup> In the inscription, formerly quoted, found at Monghir, and bearing date 23 years B. C. there is sufficient proof of the division of Hindustan into numerous kingdoms. Gopal, the prince, or the father of the prince, by whom the grant is made, is panegyrized as the conqueror of many princes; and his son is, "He, who marching through many countries, making conquests, arrived with his elephants in the forests of the mountains Beendhyo, where seeing again their long-lost families, they mixed their mutual tears; and who going to subdue other princes, his young horses meeting their females at Kam-boge, they mutually neighed for joy:—who conquered the earth from the source of the Ganges as far as the well-known bridge which was constructed by the enemy of Dosa-yo, from the river of Luckeekool as far as the ocean of the habitation of Booroon."<sup>4</sup> If this prince overran the peninsula, and conquered a multitude of princes, the peninsula must have been possessed by a multitude of princes before. And we may form an idea of the exaggeration used in the account of his victories, when we are told that his father Gopal was king of the world, and possessed of two brides, the earth and her wealth.<sup>5</sup> The conquests by those princes, even when they took place,

BOOK II.  
CHAP. X.

<sup>1</sup> Hitopadesa, in Sir William Jones's Works, vi. 43.

<sup>2</sup> Ib. p. 44.

Asst. Res. I. 123.

rl. 43.

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**BOOK II.** were but inroads, never to any considerable extent, effecting a durable possession. This prince himself, we are told, "when he had completed his conquests, released all the rebellious princes he had made captive; and each returning to his own country laden with presents, reflected upon this generous deed, and longed to see him again."<sup>1</sup> The laws frequently afford evidence to the same purpose. The penalty, so frequently imposed, of banishment from one kingdom to another, proves the vicinity of different kingdoms.<sup>2</sup> The following is another instance in point:— "If a lender of money says to a person, A debt due to me is outstanding in your hands, and that person denies the debt, if that time the bond is not in the lender's hands, but should be in some other kingdom, then until he brings the bond from such other kingdom, the suit shall not be determined."<sup>3</sup> In the code of Menu is a series of rules for behaviour to neighbouring princes; sufficiently proving, that Hindustan was in that state of subdivision which rendered these rules pertinent and useful.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Asiat. Res.* I. 123. The third stanza of this inscription, omitted by Mr. Wilkins, but translated by Sir W. Jones, affords additional proof that these conquests were but an irruption: "By whom, having conquered the earth as far as the ocean, it was left as being unprofitably seized." *Ibid.* p. 142. In the inscription on the pillar near Buddal, found by Mr. Wilkins, is described a race of princes, who originally, it is said, ruled over "but one quarter, and had no authority in other regions;" but one of the line, "being a virtuous prince, became supreme over every country without reserve, and the three worlds were held in subjection by his hereditary rank." The dominions of his son and successor extended from Reva Janak, to the father of Gowri, and to the two oceans, &c.. and all this country, the prince Sree Devu Pal rendered tributary. *Ibid.* p. 134. Yet Sir W. Jones says, that this race of princes were all along only prime ministers to the House of Devu Pal: p. 142. Nothing can be more contradictory to the text; but it is necessary for Sir William's theory that the kings of Gaur, of whom Devupal was one, should be the lords paramount of India. Sir William, when he had a theory, seems to have had eyes to see nothing but what made in its favour. An additional proof of the small kingdoms of Hindustan is found in the inscription (*As. Res.* I. 133, stanza XIII.) "The king of Gowr" (Bengal) "for a long time enjoyed the country of the eradicated race of Ootkal" (Orixia,) "of the Hoons" (Huns,) "of humbled pride, of the kings of Draveer" (a country to the south of the Carnatic,) "and Goojar" (Goozerat,) "whose glory was reduced, and the universal sea-girt throne." Another grant of land (*Ib.* p. 357) affords evidence to the same purpose: a number of kings are actually named in the royal grant. *As. Res.* III. 48.

<sup>2</sup> See Gentoo Code, *passim*.

<sup>3</sup> Halhed's Gentoo Code, ch. III. sect. 6, p. 106, 107.

<sup>4</sup> Laws of Menu, ch. vii. p. 154, 155. Even Robertson, though a firm believer in the universal monarchy, is forced to allow that it had not yet existed in the time of Alexander. "In the age of Alexander, though there was not established in it any powerful empire, resembling that which in modern times stretched its dominion from the Indus almost to Cape Comorin, it was even then formed into monarchies of considerable extent." Robertson's *Disq.* concerning Ancient India. p. 21. But the times of Alexander, and times long antecedent, are the times fixed upon by the Brahmins, for this perpetually asserted, but never ascertained empire. To what modern

These articles, to which there is nothing whatsoever opposed, but the absurd fables of the Brahmens, constitute a degree of evidence to which we may with sufficient confidence attach our belief! BOOK II.  
CHAP. X.

We have already seen, in reviewing the Hindu form of government, that despotism, in one of its simplest and least artificial shapes, was established in Hindustan, and confirmed by laws of Divine authority. We have seen likewise, that by the division of the people into castes, and the prejudices which the detestable views of the Brahmens raised to separate them, a degrading and pernicious system of subordination was established among the Hindus, and that the vices of such a system were there carried to a more destructive height than among

times does Robertson allude? for he himself gives it as true information, that in the tenth century, there were four kingdoms in the north part alone of India. "The first was composed of the provinces situated on the Indus, and the rivers which fall into it; the capital of which was Monitan. The capital of the second kingdom was Canoge, which, from the ruins of it remaining, appears to have been a very large city. The third kingdom was Cashmire. Mausudi, as far as I know, is the first author who mentions this paradise of India, of which he gives but a short description. The fourth is the kingdom of Guzerate, which he represents as the greatest and most powerful; and he concurs with the two Arabian travellers, in giving the forepart of it the appellation of Balhara." *Ibid.* Note xxxvii. p. 332.

<sup>1</sup> The inconsistencies of the believers in the great empire of Hindustan are infernal. Mr. Maurice tells us that Ball, "if that name imply not rather a dynasty of princes than an individual monarch," [a shrewd suspicion] "was the puissant sovereign of a mighty empire, extending over the vast continent of India; that under Rama, the next in succession, there is every appearance of its having remained unbroken; that Judishter is generally acknowledged to have been the sovereign of all India." Maurice, *Hist.* II. 611. Yet both Mr. Maurice and Sir W. Jones believe Rama to be the Raamah of Scritture, the son of Cush, *Genesis*, ch. x. ver. 7, in whose days it was impossible that any considerable part of India could be peopled. See Sir W. Jones, *Asiat. Rev.* II. 491, and Mr. Maurice, *Hist.* III. 104. Ball, the Baal, and Bel, of other eastern nations, who is also said to have been the first king of Assyria, was not a name of any particular person, but a title assumed by many, and those of different nations. It is in fact a title of the sun. (See Bryant's *Myth.*) Judishter, too, it is remarkable, was the contemporary of Rama, both being heroes in the war of the Mahabharat. For the performance of the Kali-yug, it was not necessary, as they pretend, to conquer all princes, since at Judishter's yug, the father of Cansa, whom Creeslina, after the death of Cansa, seated on the throne of Mathura, was not conquered by Judishter. Nay, it is remarkable that this yug was celebrated while Judishter was yet a dependent upon Dhoorjodhien, before the war of the Pandooos. Even after the war of the Mahabharat, when they assure us, for certain, that Judishter was king of all India, Ogur-rein, the grandfather of Creeslina, was reigning at Mathura; Creeslina and the Yadavas were all flourishing. See the *Mahabharat*, translated by Halliday Maurice, *History of India*, II. 463.—M. The Brahmans are here charged with "fables," which are almost wholly of European fabrication: although a prince may be sometimes termed in compliment a universal monarch, yet they almost always describe India as parcelled out amongst a number of independent rulers: the common division of India, according to Brahmical authorities, is into fifty-six principalities, but the Puranas and poems specify many more.—W.

## HISTORY OF BRITISH INDIA.

II. any other people.) And we have seen that by a system  
of priestcraft, built upon the most enormous and tormenting  
superstition that ever harassed and degraded any portion  
of mankind, their minds were enchain'd more intolerably than their bodies; in short that, despotism and  
priestcraft taken together, the Hindus, in mind and body,  
were the most enslaved portion of the human race. Sir  
William Jones, in his preface to the translation of the  
Institutes of Menu, says, that this code exhibits "a sys-  
tem of despotism and priestcraft, both indeed limited by  
law, but artfully conspiring to give mutual support, though  
with mutual checks." The despotism and priestcraft of  
the system were, it seems, too glaring to be mistaken or  
denied; but, in order to palliate the deformity, Sir Wil-  
liam is betrayed into nonsense. A despotism, he says,  
limited by law; as if a despotism limited by law were not  
a contradiction in terms; what is limited by law, so far  
as so limited, being not a despotism. A priestcraft, he  
also says, limited by law: A law of which the priests  
themselves were the sole makers, and the sole interpreters!  
A despotism, and a priestcraft, he says, with mutual  
checks. Yes, truly; it was the interest of the priestcraft  
to check the despotism, in all encroachments on the priest-  
craft; and it was the interest of the despotism to check  
the priestcraft, in all encroachments on the despotism.  
But who checked the despotism and the priestcraft in  
oppressing the people? Alas! no one. It was the inter-  
est of the despotism and the priestcraft to join together  
in upholding their common tyranny over the people; and  
it must be allowed that so commanding a motive had  
all the influence upon their conduct which it might be

1 "In so far as the Hindu superstition tends to estrange mankind by creating artificial sources of mutual aversion and disgust; so far certainly does it counteract the real interests of society. Let it not be urged that the practical effects of the artificial separation of the Asiaties are not greatly felt in society; or that a Brahmin or Rajah will as readily supply the wants of the poorer classes as he would those of his own. The fact is otherwise; the Brahmin considers his order as in some measure a different race of beings; and imagines that the lower ranks are incapable of the same sensibility to suffering; he regards them as a race whose feelings are deadened by the meanness of their intellect, and therefore not entitled to the same share of compassion. That this is the idea of the princes and civil magistrates throughout India, their own conduct sufficiently evinces; herce the severity of their government, the rigour of their punishments, and their universal indifference to the comfort, and even the lives of their subjects." Tennant's Indian Recreations, I. 121.

expected to have.<sup>1</sup> Apply this remark of the splendid orientalist to the Turks; *There is a despotism and a priesthood, limited, (if we may so abuse the term,) and still more strictly limited, by law; for the Moslem laws are more precise and accurate than those of the Hindus:* *There, too, the despotism and priestcraft check one another;* But has all this prevented the Turkish despotism and priestcraft from being the scourge of human nature; the source of barbarity and desolation?

That the Hindu despotism was not practically mild, we have a number of satisfactory proofs. We have seen the cruelty and ferocity of the penal laws; itself a circumstance of the highest importance, "A thunderbolt," says the author of the *Histopadesa*, "and the power of kings, are both dreadful! But the former expendeth its fury at once, whilst the latter is constantly falling upon our heads."<sup>2</sup> Some of the observations are no comprehensive, and pointed, as to afford the strongest evidence. "In this world," says the same celebrated book, "which is subject to the power of one above, a man of good principles is hard to be found, in a country, for the most part, governed by the use of the rod."<sup>3</sup> "Princes in general, alas! turn away their faces from a man endowed with good qualities."<sup>4</sup> "The conduct of princes, like a fine harlot, is of many colours. True and false; harsh and gentle; cruel and merciful; niggardly and generous; extravagant of expense, and solicitous of the influx of abundant wealth and treasure."<sup>5</sup> "An elephant killeth even by touching, a servant even by smelling, a king even by ruling."<sup>6</sup> All the gene-

<sup>1</sup> These notions of the condition of the people are all drawn from the history of Europe, and are in a great degree inapplicable to India. The people under their native princes know little of despotic government. They have determinate laws and fixed institutions, which no ruler can in any way modify or change, and which, therefore, set insuperable limits to arbitrary rule. With regard to the Brahmins, again, it must be always remembered that whatever influence they may have exercised, it has been entirely personal, proportionate to their individual reputation for sanctity and learning. They are no priesthood; they have never had, as a body, any common purpose, any organization, any head; and they can never, therefore, have prosecuted systematically, designs upon the liberties of the people. They are in fact the people; not separated from them as monastic or clerical sections, but making up a very large proportion of the population, and giving the whole force of the consideration which their caste confers to the security of popular rights. A great mistake pervades all reasoning about the position of the Brahmins in Hindu society; they are a tribe, a people, not an order or corporation.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Wilkins' *Histopadesa*, p. 161.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 82.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 160.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p. 166.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. p. 176. The following maxim, among many others in the book, is a proof of the idle and useless life of the Rajahs, who devolved all business

**BOOK II.** all maxims of the Hindus import the extreme degradation  
**CHAP. X.** of the great body of the people. "The assistance, O king,  
 which is rendered to those of low degree, is like endeavouring to please bears. A low person should never be placed in the station of the great. One of low degree having obtained a worthy station, seeketh to destroy his master."<sup>1</sup> "The Hindus," says Dr. Buchanan, "in their state of independence, exacted deference from those under them, with a cruelty and arrogance rarely practised but among themselves. A Nair was expected instantly to cut down a Tiar or Mucua, who presumed to defile him by touching his person; and a similar fate awaited a slave, who did not turn out of the road as a Nair passed."<sup>2</sup> In Sacontala, Dushmanta is represented as a king who possessed every virtue, and made happiness flourish as in the golden age. Yet we have a specimen of the justice and legality which prevailed during this happy reign, in the passage relating to the innocent fisherman. He was found, by certain of the king's officers, offering to sell a ring with the king's name upon it. They instantly seize him, and drag him away to justice: all the while beating and bruising him; and loading him with opprobrious epithets. The victim of this brutal treatment offers only the most humble entreaties, making statement of the facts, and protestation of his innocence. Upon the sight of the ring, the king acknowledges that he is innocent; and orders him a sum of money, equal in value to the ring. Of this reward he is obliged to resign a half to the very men who had abused him, "to escape," it is said, "the effects of their displeasure."<sup>3</sup>

upon their ministers, and wallowed in sensuality and sloth. "The sovereign being a vessel for the distribution of happiness, and not for the execution of affairs, the minister, who shall bring ruin upon the business of the state is a criminal." (Ibid. p. 142.) The last article of the following character of a good minister is an abundant proof of the rapacious nature of the government; "A king should engage for his minister one who is a native of his own country; pure in all his ways, and cleanly in his dress; not one who is an outcast, addicted to idle pleasures, or too fond of women; but one of good repute, who is well versed in the rules of disputation, is of a firm mind, and expert in raising a revenue." Ibid. p. 179. See also the inscription respecting a Royal Grant, Asiat. Res. iii. 48.

<sup>1</sup> Wilkins' *Hittopadesa*, p. 242.

<sup>2</sup> Buchanan's *Journey through Mysore, &c.* ii. 410.

<sup>3</sup> Another remarkable circumstance. The fisherman informs the officers he gives them his present to purchase wine; on which they cry, "Oh! now thou art our beloved friend.—Good wine is the first object of our affection.—Let us go together to the vintner's." Sacontala, act v.

The laws for guarding the authority of the magistrate, BOOK II.  
exhibit a character of extreme severity, and indicate an habitual state of the most rigid domination. "If a man speaks reproachfully of any upright magistrate, the magistrate shall cut out his tongue ; or, having confiscated all his effects, shall banish him the kingdom."<sup>1</sup> By this law, even the privilege of complaint was taken from the wretched Hindu. The victim of oppression was bound, under ferocious penalties, to suffer in silence.

The following is a law by which every act of despotism is legalized. "If a magistrate, for his own good, hath passed any resolutions, whoever refuses to submit to such resolutions, the magistrate shall cut out that person's tongue."<sup>2</sup> If every resolution which the magistrate chooses to pass for his own good, is by the very circumstance of his passing it, obligatory under violent penalties, the state of the government is not doubtful.

"If a man makes complaint before the magistrate against the magistrate's counsellor, without any real fault in him, or performs any business or service for the magistrate's accuser, the magistrate shall put him to death."<sup>3</sup> Under the operation of this law, the magistrate had little to fear from accusation. There could be no remedy for any grievance ; because the existence of any grievance could hardly ever be told. If the magistrate was willing to hear of his own misconduct, or that of his servants, in that case he might hear of it ; where he was unwilling, in that case it was death.<sup>4</sup>

Though all peaceable applications for the redress of grievances were thus precluded, any violence offered to the person of the magistrate was punished in a manner which none but the most savage people ever endured. "If a magistrate has committed a crime, and any person, upon discovery of that crime, should beat and ill-use the ma-

<sup>1</sup> Halhed's Gentoos Code, ch. xv. sect. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Halhed's Gentoos Code, ch. xxi. 10.

<sup>4</sup> The self-abasement of the Hindus, before their kings, is decisive proof of a merciless government. "The sovereign, although but a child, is not to be despised, but to be respected as a man ; or as a mighty divinity who presideth in human form." Wilkins' Illiopadessa, p. 117. "They performed prostration to their princes, *falling down with eight members*, as they expressed their abject and grovelling mode of approach." Ibid, note 137. "Plus un gouvernement est despotique, plus les armes y sont avilées et dégradées ; plus l'on s'y vante d'altmer son tyran. Les esclaves bénissent à Maroc leur sort et leur Prince, lorsqu'il daigne lui-même leur couper le cou." Helvetius de l'Homme, I. 318.

**BOOK II.** gistrate, in that case, whatever be the crime of murdering  
**CHAP. X.** one hundred Brahmins, such crime shall be accounted to  
 that person ; and the magistrate shall thrust an iron spit  
 through him, and roast him at the fire.”<sup>1</sup>

The notices afforded us of particular sovereigns are exceedingly few. But, such as they are, most of them declare the misgovernment and cruelty of the individuals to whom they relate. “According to Plutarch, in his life of Alexander, Chandra-Gupta (I use the words of Mr. Wilford) had been at that prince’s camp, and had been heard to say afterwards, that Alexander would have found no difficulty in the conquest of Prachi, or the country of the Prasians, had he attempted it, as the king was despised, and hated, too, on account of his cruelty.”<sup>2</sup>

As the Hindu manners and character are invariable, according to their admirers, these admirers cannot consistently reject their present, as proof of their ancient, behaviour ; and all men will allow that it affords strong ground of inference. “It is a remark,” says one of the best-informed observers of Hindustan, “warranted by constant experience, that wherever the government is administered by Gentoos, the people are subject to more and severer oppressions than when ruled by the Moors. I have imputed this to intelligent Gentoos, who have confessed the justice of the accusation, and have not scrupled to give their opinions concerning it.” The opinions of the Gentoos are as favourable to themselves as suiting the occasion, they could possibly make them. “A Gen-

<sup>1</sup> Halhed’s Gentoo Code, ch. xvi. sect. 1.—M. These laws are all from Halhed’s Code : their authority is questionable, and it may be doubted if in all respects the translation is accurate.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Wilford, on the Chronology of the Hindus, *Asiat. Res.* v. 284. There is a passage in Quintus Curtius which would lead us to conclude that India was not thickly inhabited in the times of Alexander. Speaking of Alexander’s march into the interior of India, after the overthrow of Darius, he says: “Ad magnam deinde, *ut in ea regione*, urbem pervenit.” (Curt. lib. ix. cap. 1.) Not a syllable escapes from this author indicative of a populous country. He styles the inhabitants, “Barbari—operum militarium rudes.” Ibid. cap. viii. The names of the separate nations which Alexander found in India are numerous.—M.

The inference deduced from an equivocal phrase of Curtius is contradicted by the positive testimony of the Greek writers. Megasthenes states that there are 120 nations in India ; and Arrian, though he questions the accuracy of this enumeration, admits that the Indians are very numerous. On India, c. vii.: Strabo says, that Eukratides was master of 1000 cities between the Hydaspes and Hyphasis, xv. 3. To attach the general character of cruelty to Hindu princes because mention is made of one cruel sovereign, is a conclusion certainly not warranted by the premises.—W.



BOOK II. dency of the Hindu religion, and to the effects which their  
CHAP. X. institutions are calculated to produce."<sup>1</sup>

familles ; les chefs Marattes sont presque toujours divisés, et en guerres. Le Tanjaur, le Maduré, le Maissour, le Samorin, Narsingue, le Canara, offraient la même spectacle lorsque la puissance des Rajahs étoit dans sa vigueur ; il en est de même de ceux de Bengale, du reste de l'Indoustan," Bernier, who had no theory on Indian affairs, but who displays more personal knowledge of the country than almost any other European, thus describes the Rajahs. "Ces sortes de rois barbares n'ont aucune véritable générosité, et ne sont guère retenus par la foi qu'ils ont promise, ne regardant qu'à leurs intérêts présents, sans songer même aux malheurs qui leur peuvent arriver de leur perfidie, et de leur brutalité." Révol. des Etats Mogol, p. 174. The ryots have every reason to dread the prevalence of the Mahratta power ; of that power which yields them up to the tyranny and oppression of their chiefs ; which affords no protection to its subjects ; which is perpetually at war with its neighbours ; and which has, in effect, laid waste the greatest part of Hindostan." Sir H. Strachey, Report as Judge of Circuit, Fifth Report of the Committee on Indian Affairs, 1810, p. 568, sect. 17. "La politique de leurs princes doit tenir de leur gouvernement.—D'une main les voit signer un traité, et de l'autre ils jurent la perte de celui avec lequel ils font alliance." Anquetil Duperron, Zendavesta, cxxii. "The annals of Persia," says Mr. Scott Waring, "contain little more than a uniform tale of wretchedness and misery, of murder and treachery ; and the mind, wearied and disgusted with this uniformity of vice, is hurried away to a contemplation of similar causes and events." Tour to Sheeraz, p. 267.

<sup>1</sup> There can be no rational doubt that what by European eyes has been seen to be the detail of government, in the hands of the Hindus, though under Mogul principals, was a fair picture of what had been the detail of government under Hindu principals ; administration in the hands of Mogul magistrates being, according to all testimony, less oppressive than administration in the hands of Hindus. The same intelligent and unexceptionable witness, Mr. Orme, goes on to say : "Imitation has conveyed the unhappy system of oppression which prevails in the government of Indostan throughout all ranks of the people, from the highest even to the lowest subject of the empire. Every head of a village calls his habitation the Durbar, and plunders of their meal and roots the wretches of his precinct : from him the Zemindar extorts the small pittance of silver, which his penurious tyranny has scraped together ; the Phousdar seizes upon the greatest share of the Zemindar's collections, and then secures the favour of his Nabob by voluntary contributions, which leave him not possessed of the half of his rapines and extactions : the Nabob fixes his rapacious eye on every portion of wealth which appears in his province, and never fails to carry off part of it : by large deductions from these acquisitions, he purchases security from his superiors, or maintains it against them at the expense of a war.—Subject to such oppressions, property in Indostan is seldom seen to descend to the third generation." Orme, on the Government and People of Indostan, p. 460, 461. The following is another stroke in the formation of the same picture. "The Havildar plunders the village, and is himself fleeced by the Zemindar ; the Zemindar by the Phousdar ; the Phousdar by the Nabob or his Duan. The Duan is the Nabob's head slave : and the Nabob compounds on the best terms he can make, with his Subah, or the throne.—Wherever this gradation is interrupted, bloodshed ensues." Ibid. p. 402. "In every city, and in every considerable town, is appointed a guard, directed by proper officers, whose duty it is to coerce and punish all such crimes and misdemeanours as affect the policy of that district, and are at the same time of too infamous or of too insignificant a nature to be admitted before the more solemn tribunal of the Durbar. These ministers of justice are called the Catwall ; and a building bearing the same name is allotted for their constant resort. At this place are perpetually heard the clamours of the populace : some demanding redress for the injury of a blow or a bad name ; others for a fraud in the commerce of farthings : one wants assistance to take, another has taken a thief ; some offering themselves as bondsmen ; others called upon for witnesses. The cries of wretches under the scourge, and the groans of expiring criminals, complete a scene of perfect misery and confusion. After

Among other expedients for saving the favourite system, BOOK II.  
 it has been maintained that the petty states and princes CHAP. X.  
 in Hindustan were but subordinate parts of one great monarchy, whose sceptre they acknowledged, and whose mandates they obeyed. There is no definite limit to gratuitous suppositions.<sup>1</sup> If we are to be satisfied with opinions not only void of proof, but opposed by everything of the nature of proof, attainable upon the subject, we may conjure up one opinion after another; and nothing, except physical impossibility, or a defect of ingenuity, can set bounds to our affirmations. In the loose mode of thinking, or rather of talking without thinking, which has prevailed concerning Indian affairs, the existence of feudal institutions in modern Europe has constituted a sufficient basis for the belief of feudal institutions in India; though it would have been just as rational to conclude that, because the Saxon language forms the basis of most of the languages of Europe, therefore the Saxon language forms the basis of the language in India.

There are two modes in which the subordination of a number of petty princes, to a great one, may take place. The inferior states may exist merely as conquered, enslaved countries, paying tribute to a foreign government, obeying its mandates, and crouching under its lash. A second mode would be, where the inferior states were

these employments of the day, parties are sent from the Catwall to patrol and watch through the town by night. In such governments, where the superiors are lost to all sense of humanity, the most execrable of villainies are perpetrated by this institution, designed to prevent them. The Catwall enters into treaty with a band of robbers, who receive from hence the intelligence necessary to direct their exploits, and in return pay to it a stipulated portion of their acquisitions: besides the concessions necessary to secure impunity when detected, one part of the band is appointed to break into houses, another assaults the traveller upon the road, a third merchant upon the rivers. I have seen these regulated villains commit murders in the face of day, with such desperate audacity as nothing but the confidence of protection could inspire." Ibid. p. 452, 453.—M. This picture is evidently exaggerated, and belief cannot be readily granted to Orme's assertion that he had been an eye-witness of "murders" perpetrated in the face of day by organised assassins.

<sup>1</sup> Yet something of the kind has been at various times the political state of India, a number of independent princes acknowledged the supremacy of one amongst them, to whom, on particular occasions, they offered a kind of feudal homage, by performing menial services to his person, and with whom they held consultations on points of common interest. The Rajasuya sacrifice was a case of the former, and repeated instances of the latter occur in the Mahabharata. In modern times it is not uncommon for one Hindu prince to receive from another the tilak, or mark on the forehead, which denotes sovereignty, and of which the grant is a proof of supremacy. See Annals of Mewar in Tod's Rajasthan, 1. 211.—W.

**BOOK II.** connected together by confederacy, and acknowledged a common head for the sake of unity, but possessed the right of deliberating in common upon common concerns. It may, with confidence, be pronounced, that in neither mode is the supposed effect compatible with the state of civilization in Hindustan.

To retain any considerable number of countries in subjection, preserving their own government, and their own sovereigns, would be really arduous, even where the science of government were the best understood. To suppose it possible in a country where the science of government is in the state indicated by the laws and institutions of the Hindus, would be in the highest degree extravagant. Even the Romans themselves, with all the skill which they possessed, retained their provinces in subjection, only by sending thither their own governors and their own armies, and superseding entirely the ancient authorities of the country. The moderation of conquering, without seizing, is a phenomenon so rarely exemplified in the most civilized times, that to suppose it universal in India, is to make a supposition in contradiction to the known laws of human affairs, and even to particular experience. Wherever an Indian sovereign is able to take possession, he hastens to take it. Wherever he can make a plundering incursion, though unable to retain, he ravages and destroys. Now it sometimes happens, that a neighbouring prince, too weak to prevent or chastise these injuries, endeavours to purchase exemption from them by a composition. This, in the language of the Mahrattas, who, in modern times, have been almost the only people in India in a situation to exact it, is called *Chout*, of which the standard is a fourth part of the revenues of the district liable to be over-run. It has, in several instances, and these abundantly recent ones, been paid, for certain districts, by the British government itself, without the most distant idea of any lordship paramount in the Mahrattas. It is abundantly evident that this species of subordination, if subordination it can be called, never could have extended far; never could reach beyond the countries immediately contiguous to that from which the chance of mischief arose.

A confederation of princes, similar to that which was exemplified in Germany, and which no combination of

circumstances has elsewhere produced, is a supposition, BOOK II.  
 still more opposed to experience. Of all the results of CHAP. X.  
 civilization, that of forming a combination of different states, and directing their powers to one common object, seems to be one of the least consistent with the mental habits and attainments of the Hindus.<sup>1</sup> It is the want of this power of combination which has rendered India so easy a conquest to all invaders ; and enables us to retain, so easily, that dominion over it which we have acquired. Where is there any vestige in India of that deliberative assembly of princes, which in Germany was known by the name of the Diet ? Where is there any memorial of that curious constitution by which the union of the German princes was preserved ; or of those elections by which they chose among themselves him who should be at their head ? That nominal homage, which the Mahratta chiefs paid to the throne of Sivajee, was a temporary circumstance, entirely of a different nature. These chiefs were not subordinate princes, but revolted subjects, in a dismembered empire. There was among them no confederacy. When at war with Sindia, the British were at peace with the Peshwa and Holkar ; when they were at war with Holkar, they were at peace with the rest. They acknowledged a subordination to the primary seat of government, only because their subjects had been accustomed to look to it ; and because they were not yet secure of their obedience.<sup>2</sup>

They, who affirm the high state of civilization among

<sup>1</sup> They have always allowed themselves to be conquered in detail, just as the tribes of Gauls and Germans by the Romans. Gaul, however, cost Julius Caesar himself five years to subdue ; and it several times carried fire and sword to the gates of Rome. The Gauls must have known much more of the art of war than the Hindus. See the fine generalship of Vercingetorix, described by the conqueror himself, in the 7th book of his *Commentaries* ; and analysed by Gutschardt, *Mémoires Militaires sur les Grecs et les Romains*, ch. xvi.—“The most remarkable of these new states were the Polygars of Chittadroog, Raidroog, Harponelly, Tarrikern, with many others of inferior note, whose united efforts might have opposed a respectable barrier to Mohammedan encroachment, if united efforts could be expected from restless savages, perpetually occupied by intestine quarrels.” (Wilks’ *Hist. Sketches*, p. 63.) Wilks says (p. 23) that the Hindu character exhibits but few shades of distinction, wheresoever found. It follows, that nowhere is it far removed from the savage state.

<sup>2</sup> To some persons it may be of use to hear, that the sober good sense of Major Rennel makes him reject the theory of union. History gives us the most positive assurances, that India was divided into a number of kingdoms or states, from the time of Herodotus down to that of Abar.” (Rennel’s *Mem. Introd.* p. xxxii.)

**BOOK II.** the Hindus previous to their subjugation to foreigners,  
**CHAP. X** proceed so directly in opposition to evidence, that wherever  
the Hindus have been always exempt from a dominion of  
foreigners, there they are uniformly found in a state of  
civilization inferior to those who have long been the sub-  
jects of a Mahomedan throne.<sup>1</sup>

It is in no quarter pretended, that the Hindu supersti-  
tion was ever less gross than it now appears. It is re-  
markable, that in any quarter it should not be recollect-  
ed, that superstition necessarily gives way as civilization  
advances. Powerful, at an early age, among the Greeks  
and Romans, it finally ceased to have almost any influence;<sup>2</sup>  
and Goguet had long ago declared, with philosophical  
truth, that "we wanted no evidence to prove the ignorance  
and rudeness of the Greeks in the heroic times; their  
credulity, and their respect for oracles, are proofs more  
than sufficient. This species of superstition has no force  
or dominion, but in proportion to the gross ignorance  
of the people: witness the savages, who do not undertake  
anything till they have previously consulted their divines  
and their oracles."<sup>3</sup>

So many regulations are found in the Hindu code of law  
respecting seasons of calamity; seasons when it is sup-  
posed that a great portion of the people are without the  
means of subsistence, that those dreadful visitations must

<sup>1</sup> Witness Nepaul, and the strong districts along the Malabar coast, where the reign of the Hindu princes had not been at all or very little disturbed. For an account of Nepaul, see the history of Col. Kirkpatrick's embassy; and of the Malabar const., among other works, Voyage de P. Paolini; Sonnerat; and Anquetil Duperron; above all, the Journey of Dr. Buchanan through Mysore, Canara, and Malabar.—"Mr. Willsford states, in the ninth volume of the Asiatic Researches, that the kings of Behar or Magadha were for many ages the sovereigns or lords-paramount of India. If such was the case, their descendants must have degenerated exceedingly; for, at the period of the Mohammedan invasion, the Raja, instead of heading his army, in defence of his country and religion, shamefully absconded, leaving his capital, then a celebrated seat of Hindu learning (whence its name of Behar) so destitute, that it was taken by a detachment of 200 men, who put a number of the unopposing Brahmins to the sword, and plundered all the inhabitants." (Hist. of Bengal by Charles Stewart, Esq., p. 40.) Mr. Stewart speaks with judgment. Everything in the state of India, as it was originally found by the Mohammedans, bears testimony against the fiction of a great monarchy, great prosperity, and great civilization.—M. One great monarchy did not exist it is true: but there were many prosperous kingdoms. The Mohammedan conquest was not so simple a process as is here insinuated: it took them two centuries to get to Delhi.—W.

<sup>2</sup> "Quae annus," says Cicero, "tam excors inveniri potest, quo illa quo quondam credabantur apud inferos portenta extimescat?" (De Nat. Deor. lib. II. cap. 2.)

<sup>3</sup> Goguet, Origin of laws, part II. book I. ch. iv. art. 8.

be very frequent. From which, soever, of these two great causes, famine, or the ravages of war, the frequency of those calamities arose, it equally bars the supposition of — good government, and high civilization.<sup>1</sup>

If we apply the reflection, which has been much admired, that if a man were to travel over the whole world, he might take the state of the roads, that is, the means of internal communication in general, as a measure of the civilization; a very low estimate will be formed of the progress of the Hindus: "In India," says Rennel, "the roads are little better than paths, and the rivers without bridges."<sup>2</sup> "In Malabar," says Dr. Buchanan, speaking of the wretched state of the roads, "even cattle are little used for the transportation of goods, which are generally carried by porters."<sup>3</sup> The Emperor, Shah Jehan, constructed certain roads in Bengal, which were celebrated as prodigies; but the remains of them, Dr. Tennant remarks, sufficiently manifest that they can never have been good; and the admiration they excited proves nothing except the wretched condition of everything, under the name of road, which had been known in India before.<sup>4</sup> Another fact, of much importance, is, that a Mahomedan sovereign was the first who established Choultries; that is, Caravanseras, or houses of reception for travellers upon the road, of which, till that period, they had no experience. "This fact," says Mr. Forster, "also recorded in Dow's history, is well known amongst the natives."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In all parts of India, where things have not been altered by the influence of the Mohammedan government, the Hindus are found collected in villages, not in detached habitations; "a custom," says Millar, (English Gov. i. 70,) "introduced by necessity in times of extreme barbarity and disorder."—M. Famines still occasionally visit India: are they still ascribable to the same causes?—W.

<sup>2</sup> Rennel's Memoir, p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Buchanan's Journey through Mysore, &c. ii. 434. "It is a fact, that there is not a road in the country made by Hindoos, except a few which lead to holy places." A View of the History, Literature, and Religion of the Hindus, &c. By the Rev. W. Ward, one of the Baptist Missionaries at Seringapatam, Introd. p. iviii.—M. The want of roads can scarcely be ascribed to the neglect of Hindu princes, seeing the greater part of the country had for so many centuries been under Mohammedan domination.—W.

<sup>4</sup> Tennant's Indian Recreations, ii. 13, 14, 323.—M. The road might have been a very good one when made by Shah Jehan. A very few years in India are sufficient to destroy any road that is not regularly kept in repair. Materials for "Roman roads" are deficient, and even they would not long resist the destructive effects of climate and vegetation.—W.

<sup>5</sup> Forster's Travels, i. 74.—Tennant's Indian Recreations, ii. 69.—M. The fact is more than doubtful. Had it been the case, they would have borne exclusively the Mohammedan appellation of Seral. Choultry and Dharamdil are both Hindu names.—W.

BOOK II. Among the pretensions received without examination,  
 CHAP. X. that of enormous riches, found in India by the first Mahomedan conquerors, requires particular attention. If those accounts had not far exceeded all reasonable bounds it would have been a matter of difficulty to prove the falsehood of them, except to those who were capable of estimating one circumstance, in any state of society, by its analogy with the rest. As the amount, however, stated by those authors, whose testimony has been adopted ; by Ferishta, for example, followed by Dow ; far exceeds the bounds, not of probability only, but of credibility ; and affords decisive evidence of that Eastern exaggeration which, in matters of history, disdains to be guided by fact, the question is left free of any considerable difficulty.<sup>1</sup> These accounts refute themselves. We have, therefore, no testimony on the subject ; for all that is presented to us in the shape of testimony, betrays itself to be merely fiction. We are left to our knowledge of circumstances, and to the inferences which they support. Now if the preceding induction, embracing the circumstances of Hindu society, is to be relied on, it will not be disputed, that a state of poverty and wretchedness, as far as the great body of the people are concerned, must have prevailed in India, not more in the times in which it has been witnessed by Europeans, than the times which preceded. A gilded throne, or the display of gold, silver, and precious stones, about the seat of a court, does not invalidate this inference. Only there, where gold and silver are scarce, can the profuse display of them about the monarch's person, either gratify the monarch's vanity, or dazzle, by its rarity, the eyes of the multitude. Perhaps there are few indications more decisive of a poor country, and a barbarous age, than the violent desire of exhibiting the precious metals and precious stones, as the characteristic marks and decorations of the chief magistrate.<sup>2</sup>

The science of political economy places this conclusion on the ground of demonstration. For the people to have

<sup>1</sup> See some observations on Dow, by Mr. Edward Scott Waring, *Tour to Sheeraaz*, p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> Speaking of the Mohammedan government in the Deccan, Colonel Wilks says : "These princes had arrived at that state of civilization in which gorgeous and awkward splendour covered the most gross political darkness." (*Historical Sketches*, p. 65.)

been rich in gold and silver, these commodities must have circulated among them in the shape of money. But of gold and silver in the shape of money, no nation has more than what is in proportion to its exchangeable commodities. Now that over the people of Hindustan were profusely supplied with commodities, everything in their manners, habits, government, and history, concur to disprove. There is, besides, a well-established fact, which ascertains the impossibility of their having abounded in gold and silver. Their commodities were not exchanged by the medium of the precious metals. The traffic of India, as in the rudest parts of the earth, was chiefly a traffic of barter;<sup>1</sup> and its taxes, as already seen, were paid in kind. It was not till the time of Akber that gold or silver was coined for circulation in the greatest part of India; antecedently to that period small pieces of copper were the only coin.<sup>2</sup> Up to the present hour, when the real signs of riches and civilisation are but just beginning to be understood, nothing has been more common with rash and superficial travellers, than to set down lofty accounts to the riches of almost every new country to which they repaired.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These assertions are all at variance with facts, but facts must give way to the "science of political economy." The trade of India with Rome and the Greek empire was maintained on their part, we know, from indisputable evidence, chiefly by the export of the precious metals. The passages of Tacitus and Pliny are well known, in which the prodigal exchange of silver for the spices and silks of India, is lamented as a national evil; and the author of the Periplus, and the laws of Justinian, both specify coin and bullion as articles of export to India. Nor is it more true that a gold and silver coinage was unknown till the time of Akbar. Great quantities of both, the date of which must commence long prior to the Mohammedan conquest, have been found in various parts of the country.—See Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.—W.

<sup>2</sup> See the Analysis of Tooril Mull's System of Finance in British India Analyzed, I. 191. These copper pieces were called pulsah or feloos, sixteen of which were reckoned equal to a Tunkah of base silver; a sort of coin, or rather medal, sometimes struck, at the pleasure of the king, not for use, but to make presents to foreign ambassadors, and others. "Trade must, therefore," says the author, "have been carried on chiefly by barter; the rents for the most part paid in kind."—In the Deccan, a gold and silver coin was known earlier; which the same author thinks must have been introduced by the intercourse of the Persians and Arabians, to whom the use of coin had been known nearly a thousand years before. (Ibid. p. 194.) See an instructive dissertation on this point in "Researches on India," by Q. Cranfurd, Esq., I. 36—80. Yet this author, p. 80—84, is a firm believer in the great riches of India.

<sup>3</sup> Agatharchides gives the most magnificent description of the riches of the Sabeans. "Their expense of living, rivals the magnificence of princes. Their houses are decorated with pillars glistening with gold and silver. Their doors are crowned with vases, and beset with jewels; the interior of their houses corresponds with the beauty of their outward appearance, and all the riches of other countries are here exhibited in variety of profusion. (See the account extracted and translated, in Vincent's Periplus, part I. p. 33. See also Strabo,

**BOOK II.** As rude nations, still more than civilised, are incessantly harassed by the dangers, or following the gains of war, one of the first applications of knowledge is, to improve the military art. The Hindus have, at no period, been so far advanced in knowledge, as even to be aware of the advantage of discipline,<sup>1</sup> of those regular and simultaneous movements, upon which, in skilled warfare, almost everything depends. "In the Hindu armies," says Francklin, "no idea of discipline ever existed."<sup>2</sup> The rudeness of the military art in Indostan," says Mr. Orme, "can scarce be imagined but by those who have seen it. The infantry consists of a multitude of people assembled together without regard to rank and file."<sup>3</sup>

lib. xvi. p. 778.) In the barbarous state of the ancient Russian court at Moscow, there was the highest degree of magnificence and splendour. The Earl of Carlisle, giving an account of his embassy, says, that he could see nothing but gold and precious stones, in the robes of the Czar, and his courtiers.—The treasure of Sardanapalus, was a thousand myriads of talents of gold, at the lowest estimation, £44,174,999,760. (Herodot. lib. ii. cap. 150; Athenei Delphinop. lib. xii.; Gibbon sur la Monarchie des Medes, M<sup>icel</sup>. Works, 8vo. Ed. III. 63.)—"What is said to be given by David (1 Chron. xxii. 14, 15, 16, and xxix. 3, 4, 5,) and contributed by his princes, xxix. 6, 7, 8,) towards the building of the temple at Jerusalem, if valued by the Mosaic talents, exceeded the value of £800,000,000, of our money." (Prideaux, Connexion of the History of the Old and New Testament, I. 5. Edit. 5th.) The Arcadian who was sent ambassador to the court of the king of Persia, in the days of Agesilaus, saw through the glare of eastern magnificence. "Ο δε Λυτροχός απηγγείλε προς τοὺς μαριών, ὅτι βασιλεὺς αρτοκοπούς, καὶ οὐροπούς, καὶ θυρωρούς πεμ-ληθεῖς εχοι· αὐδρας δε, οι μαχοντ' αρ Ἐλλησι, παντας ζητοντες εφη δυνασται ιενται. προς δε τοιούς, καὶ το των χρυμάτων πλήθες αλλοιοις οι γε δοκειν ειπει εφη επει και την ίμιουμετρην αν χριστην πλάτονον ουκ ικαρη εφη ειραι τετται σκιαν παρεχειν. Xenophontis Graecorum, &c. lib. vii. sect. 1, near the end.)

<sup>1</sup> Here again assertion and fact are at variance: whatever may have been the efficiency of the discipline in practice, there was no want of a theory of regular movements and arrangements for the march, array, encampment, and even the supply of troops. They are all repeatedly described in the Mahabharata.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Francklin's Life of George Thomas, p. 103.

<sup>3</sup> Orme, on the Government and People of Indostan, p. 420. The exquisite ignorance and stupidity of the Myoreans in the art of war, while yet a purely Hindu people, is strongly remarked by Orme. I. 297. In the following description appears the simplicity of the fortification of Hindu towns: "A place that hath eight corse in length and breadth, and on the skirts of which, on all the four sides, is a ditch, and above the ditch, on all the four sides, a wall or parapet, and on all the four sides of it are bamboos, and on the east or north side thereof, a hollow or covered way, such place is called Nigher, or a city; in the same manner, if it hath four corse in length and breadth, it is called Gherbut or a small city." Gentoo Cole, ch. xiv. See also Mette's Journey to Orissa, A. An. Reg. I. 31, 57.—"The fortifications of places of the first order formerly consisted, and in many places still consist, in one or two thick walls, flanked with round or triangular towers. A wide and deep ditch is on the outside; but as the Hindus are unskillful in the construction of bridges, they always leave a causeway from the gate of the town over the ditch." The Abb<sup>s</sup> Dubois, p. 543.—See a curious testimony to the imperfection of the military art among the Mahrattas, (Broughton's Letters from a Mahratta Camp, p. 107, 108); and another still more remarkable, to the wretched pusillanimity of the Jafroots,

Even medicine and surgery, to the cultivation of which so obvious and powerful an interest invites, had scarcely, beyond the degree of the most uncultivated tribes, attracted the rude understanding of the Hindus.<sup>1</sup> Though the leisure of the Brahmans has multiplied works on astrology, on the exploits of the gods, and other worthless subjects, to such a multitude "that human life," says Sir W. Jones, "would not be sufficient to make oneself acquainted with any considerable part of Hindu literature,"<sup>2</sup> he yet confesses, there is "no evidence that in any language of Asia, there exists one original treatise on medicine, considered as a science."<sup>3</sup> Surgery, says an author who believes in the high civilisation of the Hindus, is unknown among that people. In the case of gun-shot or sabre wounds, all they did was to wash the wound, and tie it up with fresh leaves; the patient, during the period of convalescence, eating nothing but the water-gruel of rice.<sup>4</sup>

those boasted descendants of the supposed magnanimous Cshatriyas, a pusillanimity, which, according to Mr. Broughton, forfeits their title even to pity, while "possessing so many advantages, they voluntarily bend their necks to one of the most galling yokes in the world." *Ibid.* p. 153.

<sup>1</sup> The expressions of Sir William Jones, to be properly understood, should have been quoted more in detail. He does not mean to say that the Hindus had not cultivated the practice of medicine; on the contrary, he says, "We have still access to a number of Sanscrit books on the old Indian practice of physic, from which, if the Hindus had a theoretical system, we might easily collect it." The value of a mere theoretical system of medicine is very small, and few medical men will condemn the Hindu works for containing only practical instruction. The real nature of the Hindu medical works is yet to be determined by translation. There is a very large body of medical literature in Sanscrit, and some of the principal works are named by Arabic writers, as having been known and translated at Bagdad, in the ninth century. These works comprise all the branches of medical science, surgery included; and, although mixed up with much that is irrational, contain numerous instances of accurate observation and judicious treatment. See *Calcutta Oriental Magazine*, 1823. Transactions, Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta, and Essay on the Antiquity of Hindoo Medicine, by Dr. Royle, London, 1837.—W.

<sup>2</sup> *Asiat. Res.* I. 354.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* iv. 159.

<sup>4</sup> *Craufurd's Sketches*. Sir William Jones says, "We may readily believe those who assure us, that some tribes of wandering Tartars had real skill in applying herbs and minerals to the purpose of medicine;" the utmost pretended extent of the medical science of the Hindus. *Asiat. Res.* II. 40. See Tennant's *Indian Recreations*, for some important details, I. 357; Buchanan's *Journey through Mysore*, &c. I. 336. — "Medicine," says the last intelligent observer, "in this country has indeed fallen into the hands of charlatans equally impudent and ignorant." *Ibid.* "There are not indeed wanting several persons who prescribe in physic, play upon a variety of musical instruments, and are concerned in some actions and performances which seem at least to suppose some skill in nature or mathematics. Yet all this is learned merely by practice, long habit, and custom; assisted for the most part with great strength of memory, and quickness of invention." (*Shaw's Travels*, speaking of the people of Barbary, p. 263.) The good sense of Colonel Wilks has made that instructive



That, in war, the Hindus have always been greatly inferior to the warlike nations of Europe, during the middle ages, it seems hardly necessary to assert.<sup>1</sup> In some of the more delicate manufactures, however, particularly in spinning, weaving, and dyeing, the Hindus, as they rival all nations, so they no doubt surpass all that was attained by the rude Europeans. In the fabrication, too, of trinkets; in the art of polishing and setting the precious stones; it is possible, and even probable, that our impatient and rough ancestors did not attain the same nicety which is displayed by the patient Hindus. In the arts of painting and sculpture, we have no reason to think that the Europeans were excelled by the Hindus. In architecture, the people who raised the imposing structures which yet excite veneration in many of the ancient cathedrals, were not left behind by the builders of the Indian pagodas.<sup>2</sup> The agriculture of the Europeans, imperfect as it was, surpassed exceedingly that of the Hindus; for, with the climate and soil of most of the countries of Europe, agriculture, so imperfect as that of India, could not have maintained the population. In point of manners and character, the manliness and courage of our ancestors, compared with the slavish and dastardly spirit of the Hindus, place them in an elevated rank. But they

<sup>1</sup> The barbarians from Germany and Scythia quickly learned the discipline of the Roman armies, and turned their own arts against the legions. See Gibbon, vii. 377. The Hindus have never been able, without European officers, to avail themselves of European discipline.

<sup>2</sup> The monastery of Bangor, demolished by Adelfrid, the first king of Northumberland, was so extensive, that there was a mile's distance from one gate of it to another, and it contained two thousand one hundred monks, who are said to have been there maintained by their own labour. (Hume's England, i. 41.) "Les Etrusques, prédeceesseurs des Romains, et les premiers peuples de l'Italie sur lesquels l'histoïre jette quelque lueur.....paroissent avoir devancé les Grecs dans la carrière des sciences et des arts, bien qu'ils n'aient pas pu, comme leurs successeurs, la parcourir toute entière. Les poëtes ont placé au milieu d'eux l'âge d'or sous le règne de Saturne, et leurs fictions n'ont voilé qu'à demi la vérité.—Comme nous ne savons pas même le nom des écrivains Etrusques ou Tyrrhéniens, et que ces peuples ne nous sont connus que par quelques fragmens d'historiens Grecs et Latins, ils resteront toujours enveloppés d'une grande obscurité. Cependant nous avons une indication de leur puissance, dans les murailles colossales de Volterra; de leur goût, dans les vases qui nous sont restés d'eux; de leur savoir, dans le culte de Jupiter Eliecius, auquel ils attribuaient l'art qu'ils connoissent et que nous avons retrouvé, d'éviter et de diriger la foudre." Simonde de Sismondi, Hist. des Rép. Ital. Introd. p. iii. These Tuscans cannot have been advanced beyond the stage of semi-barbarism; and yet here are proofs of a progress in the arts, with which the Hindus have nothing to compare.—The Afghans use a water-mill for grinding their corn. "It is also used in the north of India, under the Sreenegger hills; but, in general, no water-mills are known in India, where all grain is ground with the hand." Elphinstone's Caubul, p. 307.

BOOK II. were inferior to that effeminate people in gentleness, and  
CHAP. X. the winning arts of address. Our ancestors, however, though  
rough, were sincere; but, under the gloomy exterior of the  
Hindu, lies a general disposition to deceit and perfidy. In  
fine, it cannot be doubted that, upon the whole, the Gothic  
nations, as soon as they became a settled people, exhibit the  
marks of a superior character and civilisation to those of  
the Hindus.<sup>1</sup>

No one can take an accurate survey of the different nations of Asia, and of their different ages, without remarking the near approaches they make to the same stage of civilisation. This gives a peculiar interest and importance to the inquiry respecting the Hindus. There can be no doubt that they are in a state of civilization very nearly the same with that of the Chinese, the Persians, and the Arabians; who, together, compose the great branches of the Asiatic population; and of which the subordinate nations, the Japanese

Cochin-chinese, Siamese, Burmans, and even Malays and Tibetans are a number of corresponding and resembling offsets.

BOOK II.  
CHAP. X.

With regard to former ages, it is true, that the religion, and several circumstances in the outward forms of society, have been altered in Persia, since the days of Darius: but the arts, the sciences, the literature, the manners, the government, concur to prove, in a remarkable manner, the near approach of the two periods to the same points of civilisation. The ancient Persians, too, there is reason to believe, were placed in nearly the same state of society with the people whom they succeeded; the Chaldeans, Assyrians, and Babylonians. In contemplating, therefore, the state of Hindustan, curiosity is very extensively gratified. As the manners, institutions, and attainments of the Hindus have been stationary for many ages; in beholding the Hindus of the present day, we are beholding the Hindus of many ages past; and are carried back, as it were, into the deep recesses of antiquity. Of some of the oldest nations, about which our curiosity is most alive, and information the most defective, we acquire a practical, and what may be almost denominated a personal knowledge, by our acquaintance with a living people, who have continued on the same soil from the very times of those ancient nations, partake largely of the same manners, and are placed at nearly the same stage in the progress of society. By conversing with the Hindus of the present day, we, in some measure, converse with the Chaldeans and Babylonians of the time of Cyrus; with the Persians and Egyptians of the time of Alexander.

A judicious observer of Asiatic manners declares that "The leading customs of the various nations of Asia are similar, or but weakly diversified. When they sit, the legs are crossed or bent under them; they perform topical ablutions before and after meals, at which no knife or spoon is used, unless the diet be wholly liquid; they invariably adopt the like modes of performing natural evacuations."<sup>1</sup>

The account which Gibbon presents us, from Herodian and Ammianus Marcellinus, of the art of war among the Persians, in the time of the Roman emperors, is an exact description of the art, as practised by the Persians and

<sup>1</sup> Forster's Travels, ii. 135.

BOOK II. Hindus, and by most other nations of Asia, at the present  
CHAP. X. day. "The science of war, that constituted the more rational  
force of Greece and Rome, as it now does of Europe, never  
made any considerable progress in the East. Those disci-  
plined evolutions which harmonise and animate a confused  
multitude, were unknown to the Persians. They were  
equally unskilled in the arts of constructing, besieging, or  
defending regular fortifications. They trusted more to  
their numbers than to their courage: more to their cour-  
rage than to their discipline. The infantry was a half-  
armed, spiritless crowd of peasants, levied in haste by the  
allurements of plunder, and as easily dispersed by a victory  
as by a defeat. The monarch and his nobles transported into  
the camp the pride and luxury of the seraglio. Their mili-  
tary operations were impeded by a useless train of women,  
eunuchs, horses, and camels; and in the midst of a successful  
campaign, the Persian host was often separated or destroyed  
by an unexpected famine."<sup>1</sup>

*whatever He pleases!*" "This constitutional maxim," says Gibbon archly, "was not neglected as a useless and barren theory."

BOOK II.  
CHAP. X.

"Like Brimha, the Po of the Chinese has various times become incarnate among men and beasts. Hence, he is represented in his temples as riding upon dragons, rhinoceroses, elephants, mules and asses; dogs, rats, cats, crocodiles, and other amiable creatures, whose figures he fancied and assumed. There are in some of the pagodas, a thousand of these monstrous statues, all most horribly ugly, and ill represented, and unlike anything in heaven or earth, or the waters under the earth."<sup>1</sup>

Under the reign of credulity, it is instructive to mark the inconsiderateness of a reflecting writer. After many praises of the Chinese husbandry, such as those which we have often heard of the agriculture of the Hindus, Lord Macartney adds, "The plough is the simplest in the world, has but one handle, is drawn by a single buffalo, and managed by a single person without any assistance."<sup>1</sup> And Mr. Barrow says, "Two-thirds of the small quantity of land under tillage is cultivated with the spade or the hoe, without the aid of draught cattle."<sup>2</sup>

Even of the principal route from Pekin to Canton, Lord Macartney remarks, "For horse and foot the road is excellent, but admits of no wheel-carriages." Mr. Burrow more expli-

"Ο. Σε βιβλίοντας κεριμμένοις πέρης για τα Περσικά, εγώ αναδιαπούνται, η εξής παραπέδη τι άλλον μηχρι τεττάντι όποιο λέ τοντας λιγοστούς και επεγγυήσας των ταρτών οι Βασιλικοί γιορτοί και τατάς εγώ τοντόντινοντας από τους Καθολικούς έπεκρινόνταν αυτοί. .... τα διαδικτυόντα Περσικά είναι τοπού τα αι βολτάτα. Herodot. Hist lib. III. cap. xxx. This, Sir William Jones would I have said, is a despotism limited by law; and thus the government of the ancient Persians stood upon a foundation resembling that of the Hindus.

<sup>2</sup> Gibson, Hist. Decl. and Fall, &c. vii. 301. Some ancient sculpture in the vicinity of Shahpoor in honour of Sapor the First, "represents a king, seated in state, amid a group of figures standing before him, one of whom offers two heads to the monarch's notice. If we wanted other evidence, this alone would mark the state of civilization to which a nation had advanced, that could suffit its glory to be perpetuated by a representation of so barbarous a character." Sir John Malcolm, Hist. of Persia, i. 254. No historical writings in ancient Persia: none in Hindustan.

<sup>2</sup> Lord Macartney's Journal, Burrow's Life of Lord Macartney, II. 279. In reading this passage, one seems to be reading an account of Hindu religion, temples, and sculpture.

<sup>4</sup> Barrow's China, p. 543. A large portion of the country, wet, swampy ground, the rich alluvium of rivers, which might be easily gained; if the Chinese had but the skill. Dredg. 70, 81, 203, 222.

<sup>6</sup> Bartow's Life of Lord Macartney, II. 337.

**BOOK II.** With respect to the inhabitants of another quarter of  
**CHAP. X.** Asia, Turner, in his account of the embassy to Tibet, informs us, that the deportment of the Rajah of Bootan was exceedingly urbane, and his sentiments breathed that sort of humanity which seems to flow from the belief of the metempsychosis. "My food," said he, "consists of the simplest articles: grain, roots of the earth, fruit. I never eat of anything which has had breath, so I should be the indirect cause of putting an end to the existence of animal life, which, by our religion, is strictly forbidden."

Though frequent ablutions are performed for religious purposes, the same author informs us that the people, in their persons, are extremely unclean.<sup>2</sup>

"Bootan presents to the view nothing but the most misshapen irregularities: mountains covered with eternal verdure, and rich with abundant forests of large and lofty trees. Almost every favourable aspect of them, coated with the smallest quantity of soil, is cleared and adapted to cultivation, by being shelved into horizontal beds; not a slope, or narrow slip of land between the ridges, lies unimproved. There is scarcely a mountain whose base is not washed by some rapid torrent, and many of the loftiest bear populous villages, amidst orchards, and other plantations on their summits, and on their sides. It combines, in its extent, the most extravagant tracts of rude nature and laborious art."<sup>3</sup>

Yet they have no discipline in their armies. In their

mode of warfare, stratagem is more practised than open assault.<sup>1</sup>

BOOK II.  
CHAP. X.

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The appearance of the capital, Teshoo Loomboo, was in a high degree magnificent, and, together with the palace, afforded proofs of a progress in the arts which vied with that of Hindustan and China.<sup>2</sup>

The inhabitants of the great Peninsula, to the eastward of the Ganges, discover, as far as known, the uniform marks of a similar state of society and manners. The Cochin-Chinese, for example, who are merely a separate community of the Chinese race, appear by no means in civilization behind the Chinese and Hindus. A traveller from whom we have obtained a sensible, though short, account of some of the more striking phenomena of the country, both physical and moral, informs us, that it is "one of the most fruitful in the world. In many parts," he says, "the land produces three crops of grain in the year. All the fruits of India are found here in the greatest perfection, with many of those of China. No country in the East produces richer, or a greater variety of articles, proper for carrying on an advantageous commerce; cinnamon, pepper, cardamoms, silk, cotton, sugar, Aquila wood, Japan wood, ivory, &c."<sup>3</sup>

The following paragraph describes an important article of accommodation, to which no parallel can be found in all China and Hindustan. "In this valley we passed through three or four pretty villages pleasantly situated, in which, as well as on other parts of the road, were public houses, where tea, fruits, and other refreshments, are sold to travellers. At noon, we alighted at one of them, and partook of a dinner, which consisted of fowls, cut into small pieces, dressed up with a little greens and salt, some fish, &c."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Turner's Embassy to Tibet, book i. ch. vi.      <sup>2</sup> Ibid. book ii. ch. II.

<sup>3</sup> Narrative of a Voyage to Cochin-China in 1778, by Mr. Chapman, in the Asiatic Annual Register for 1801, Miscellaneous Tracts, p. 85.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 72. Of China, Mr. Barrow says, "There are no inns in any part of this vast empire; or, to speak more correctly (for there are resting-places,) no inhabited and furnished houses where, in consideration of paying a sum of money, a traveller may purchase the refreshments of comfortable rest, and of allaying the calls of hunger. The state of society admits of no such accommodation. What they call inns are mean hovels, consisting of bare walls, where, perhaps, a traveller may procure his cup of tea for a piece of copper money, and permission to pass the night; but this is the extent of the comforts which such places hold." Barrow's China, p. 241. Such is the description of the Indian choultries; empty buildings into which the traveller may

**BOOK II.** They are successful in embroidering with flowers, and in  
**CHAR. x.** weaving velvet, and tautband, which is a species of silk  
 of which they make tents and kenauts."<sup>1</sup>

The bigoted and intolerant Mussulman, however, who finds no excellence where he finds not his faith ; discovers no qualities but evil in the minds of the Assamese. "They do not adopt," he says, "any mode of worship practised either by heathens or Mahomedans : nor do they concur in any of the known sects, which prevail amongst mankind. They are a base and unprincipled nation, and have no fixed religion ; they follow no rules but that of their own inclinations, and make the approbation of their own vicious minds the test of the propriety of their actions."<sup>2</sup> Such are the distorted views presented to an ignorant mind, through the medium of a dark and malignant religion, respecting a people cultivating the ground to great perfection, and forming a dense population. Among other particulars of the vileness which he beheld in them, is the following : "The base inhabitants, from a congenial impulse, are fond of seeing and keeping asses, and buy and sell them at a high price."<sup>3</sup> Yet he speaks in lofty terms of the royal magnificence of the court. "The Rajahs of this country have always raised the crest of pride and vain glory, and displayed an ostentatious appearance of grandeur, and a numerous train of attendants and servants." And he expresses himself with a mingled horror and admiration of the prowess and superiority of the Assamese in war. "They have not bowed the head of submission and obedience, nor have they paid tribute or submission to the most powerful monarch ; but they have curbed the ambition, and checked the conquests of the most victorious princes of Hindustan." Several armies from Bengal, which had been sent to conquer them, having been cut off, of some of which scarce even tidings had ever been received, "the natives of Hindustan consider them wizards and magicians, and pronounce the name of that country in all their incantations and countercharms : they say that every person who sets his foot there, is

under the influence of witchcraft, and cannot find the road to return." <sup>1</sup>

BOOK II.

CHAP. X.

The admiration which the Greeks, no very accurate observers of foreign manners, expressed of the Egyptians, and which other nations have so implicitly borrowed at their hands, not a little resembles the admiration among Europeans which has so long prevailed with regard to the Hindus. The penetrating force of modern intelligence has pierced the cloud: and while it has displayed to us the state of Egyptian civilization in its true colours, exhibits a people who, standing on a level with so many celebrated nations of antiquity, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Arabians, correspond, in all the distinctive marks of a particular state of society, with the people of Hindustan. The evidence has been weighed by a cool and dispassionate judge, in the following manner: "I see nothing," says the President Goguet, "in the Egyptians that can serve to distinguish them in a manner very advantageous; I even think myself authorized to refuse them the greatest part of the eulogies that have been always so liberally bestowed upon them. The Egyptians did invent some arts and some sciences, but they never had the ingenuity to bring any of their discoveries to perfection. I have exposed their want of taste, and I venture to say, of talent, in architecture, in sculpture, and in painting. Their manner of practising physic was absurd and ridiculous. The knowledge they had of geometry and astronomy was but very imperfect. Their discoveries are far enough from entering into any comparison with those which the Greeks made afterwards in those two sciences. In fine, the Egyptians have had neither genius, ardour, nor talent, for commerce, or for the marine and military art."

"As to civil laws, and political constitutions, the Egyptians had indeed some very good ones; but otherwise there reigned in their government a multitude of abuses and essential defects, authorized by the laws and by their fundamental principles of government.

<sup>1</sup> See Description of the Kingdom of Assam, &c. Asiat. An. Register for 1800, Miscellaneous Tracts, p. 47, 48.—M. This picture of civilization in Assam, would much astonish the British officers, who are now charged with the management of the country: as it is given by Mohammed Kasim, however, it is confined to abundant population, extensive tillage, a causeway or bank, and the manufacture of a sort of silk, of which they make 'tents.' Assam silk, for such a purpose, must have been something like canvass.—W.

**BOOK II.** "As to the manners and customs of this people, we  
**CHAP. X.** have seen to what a height indecency and debauchery were carried in their religious feasts and public ceremonies. The public cult which a nation fixes to honour the Deity, bears the stamp of that nation's character. Neither was the morality of the Egyptians extremely pure; we may even affirm, that it offended against the first rules of rectitude and probity. We see that the Egyptians bore the highest blame of covetousness, of ill faith, of cunning, and of rougery.

"It appears to me to result from all these facts, that the Egyptians were a people industrious enough, but, as to the rest, without taste, without genius, without discernment; a people who had only ideas of grandeur ill understood; and whose progress in all the different parts of human knowledge never rose beyond a flat mediocrity,<sup>1</sup> knavish into the bargain, and crafty, soft, lazy, cowardly, and submissive; and who, having performed some exploits to boast of in distant times, were ever after subjected by whoever would undertake to subdue them; a people again vain and foolish enough to despise other nations without knowing them: superstitious to excess, singularly addicted to judicial astrology, extravagantly besotted with an absurd and monstrous theology. Does not this representation sufficiently authorise us to say that all that science, that wisdom, and that philosophy, so boasted of in the Egyptian priests, was but imposture and juggling, capable of imposing only on people so little enlightened, or so strongly prejudiced, as were anciently the Greeks in favour of the Egyptians?"<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The monuments of the ancient Egyptians show them to have been well acquainted with the arts of civilized life, and to have carried them to a high degree of perfection. Of their literature, philosophy, and science, we know nothing but from imperfect report and conjecture; and we derive the pictures of their manners, chiefly from the Roman satirists. We are not qualified, therefore, to judge of their relation to the Hindus in these respects.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Goguet, *Origin of Laws*, part III. book vi. ch. ii. He adds, "I should be greatly tempted to compare this nation with the Chinese. I think a good deal of resemblance and conformity is to be perceived between one people and the other." Ibid. Had the Hindus been then as fully described as they are now, he would have found a much more remarkable similarity between them and the Egyptians.—Exaggeration was long in quitting its hold of Egypt. At the time of the Arabian conquest, in the seventh century, "We may read," (says Gibbon, ix. 446) "in the gravest authors, that Egypt was crowded with 20,000 cities or villages: that exclusive of the Greeks and Arabs, the Copts alone were found on the assessment, six millions of tributary subjects, or twenty millions of either sex, and of every age: that three hundred millions

The sagacity of Adam Smith induced him, at an early period of his life, to deny the supposed proof of any high attainments among those ancient nations, and to declare, though with hesitancy, his inclination to the opposite opinion.

BOOK II.  
CHAP. X.

"It was in Greece, and in the Grecian colonies, that the first philosophers of whose doctrine we have any distinct account, appeared. Law and order seem indeed to have been established in the great monarchies of Asia and Egypt, long before they had any footing in Greece: yet after all that has been said concerning the learning of the Chaldeans and Egyptians, whether there ever was in those nations anything which deserved the name of science, or whether that despotism which is more destructive of leisure and security than anarchy itself, and which prevailed over all the East, prevented the growth of philosophy, is a question which, for want of monuments, cannot be determined with any degree of precision."<sup>1</sup> To leave the subject even in this state of doubt was but a compromise with popular opinion, and with his own imperfect views. The circumstances handed down to us, compared with the circumstances of other nations, afforded materials for a very satisfactory determination. The opinion by which he supports his disbelief of the ancient civilization of Asia is at once philanthropic and profound; that "despotism is more destructive of leisure

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of gold or silver were annually paid to the treasury of the Caliph." He adds in a note, "And this gross lump is swallowed without scruple by d'Herbelot, Arbuthnot, and De Guignes. They might allege the not less extravagant liberality of Appian, in favour of the Ptolemies; an annual income of 185, or near 200, millions of pounds sterling; according as we reckon by the Egyptian or the Alexandrian talent." If this be wonderful, what is to be said of the lumps swallowed by the admirers of the Hindus? Voltaire remarks, "Que les Egyptiens tant vantaient pour leurs lois, leurs connaissances, et leurs pyramides, n'avaient presque jamais été qu'un peuple esclave, superstitieux et ignorant, dont tout le mérite avait consisté à clever des rangs inutiles de pierres les unes sur les autres par l'ordre de leurs tyrans; qu'en lâchant leurs palais superbes ils n'avaient jamais su seulement former une voûte; qu'ils ignoraient la coupe de pierres; que toute leur architecture consistait à poser de longues pierres plates sur des piliers sans proportion; que l'ancienne Egypte n'a jamais eu une statue tolérable que de la main des Grecs; que ni les Grecs ni les Romains n'ont jamais daigné traduire un seul livre des Egyptiens; que les éléments de géométrie composés dans Alexandrie le furent par un Grec, etc., etc.,....., on n'aperçoit dans les lois de l'Egypte que celles d'un peuple très borné." Voltaire, Supplément à l'Essai sur les Mœurs, &c. Remarque Premier.

<sup>1</sup> *Essay on the History of Astronomy*, p. 27.

BOOK II. and security, and more adverse to the progress of the  
CHAP. X. human mind, than anarchy itself.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This question of the civilization of the Hindus, although discussed with disproportionate prolixity, irrelevancy of illustration, and tediousness of repetition, both in these concluding remarks, and in a variety of previous notes and observations, can scarcely be considered as satisfactorily determined. It may be admitted, that the Hindus were not a civilized people according to Mr. Mill’s standard; but what that standard is, he has not fully defined. Civilization is used by him, however, as a relative term, and in this sense, we may readily grant that the Hindus never attained the advance made by modern Europe. It is not just to institute such a comparison; for, to say nothing of the advantages we possess in a pure system of religious belief, we cannot leave out of consideration the agency of time. The Hindus, by the character of their institutions, and by the depressing influence of foreign subjugation, are apparently what they were at least three centuries before the Christian era. Two thousand years have done nothing for them, everything for us. We must, therefore, in fairness, compare them with their contemporaries, with the people of antiquity; and we shall then have reason to believe, that they occupied a very foremost station amongst the nations. They had a religion less disgraced by idolatrous worship, than most of those which prevailed in early times. They had a government, which, although despotic, was equally restricted by law, by institutions, and religion: they had a code of laws, in many respects wise and rational, and adapted to a great variety of relations, which could not have existed, except in an advanced condition of social organization. They had a copious and cultivated language, and an extensive and diversified literature; they had made great progress in the mathematical sciences; they speculated profoundly on the mysteries of man and nature, and they had acquired remarkable proficiency in many of the ornamental and useful arts of life. Whatever defects may be justly imputed to their religion, their government, their laws, their literature, their sciences, their arts, as contrasted with the same proofs of civilization in modern Europe, it will not be disputed by any impartial and candid critic, that as far as we have the means of instituting a comparison, the Hindus were in all these respects quite as civilized as the most civilized nation of the ancient world, and in as early times as any of which records or traditions remain.—W.

## BOOK III.—THE MOHAMMEDANS.

## CHAPTER I.

*From the first Invasion of India by the Nations in the North, till the expulsion of the Ghaznevide dynasty.*

AT the time when the nations of Europe opened their communication with India, by the Cape of Good Hope, *ch. i.* the people whom we have now described had for a number of ages been subject to a race of foreigners. That subjection, though it had not greatly altered the texture of native society, had introduced new forms into some of the principal departments of state; had given the military command to foreigners; and had mixed with the population a proportion of a people differing from them considerably, in manners, character, and religion. The political state of India, at this time, consisted of a Mohammedan government, supported by a Mohammedan force, over a Hindu population.

It appears that the people of Hindustan have at all times been subject to incursions and conquest, by the nations contiguous to them on the north-west. *The Sogdians,* that is, the rude nations on the east of Persia, conquered, we are told by Justin, a great part of Asia, and even penetrated as far as Egypt, about 1500 years before Ninus, the founder of the Assyrian monarchy. *Arrian* know that in the vast empire of Darius *Hystaspes* is much of India was included, as constituted one *satrapy*, the most valuable, of his twenty satrapies. *The extent* limits of the Indian satrapy are unknown; but from the account which Herodotus gives of its tribute, *surviving* that of any of the rest, the extent of it *cannot* have been small. Major Rennel supposes that it *may* have reached as far as Delhi,<sup>1</sup> and have included the *rivers* of

<sup>1</sup> This is incorrectly quoted. Herodotus says, "We may say that Darius, in fact, possessed no more of India than what lay between the Indus and its branches;" *Book II.* The amount of tribute, *one million sterling*, was not large relatively; the only *large* *part* of its relative amount; it was nearly one-third of the whole revenue of the Persian empire; this is probably an exaggeration.—W.

**BOOK III.** the Punjab, or country watered by the five branches of the  
**CHAP. I.** Indus, together with Cabul, Candahar, and the tract of  
country which lies along the Indus to the sea.<sup>1</sup>

The conquests of Alexander the Great, which succeeded to those of the Persian monarchs, seem not to have extended so far in India, as the previous possessions of Darius; since his career was stopped on the banks of the Hyphasis, or modern Boyah, the last of the five branches of the Indus; whence returning to the Hydaspes, he passed down the Indus to the sea. Seleucus, the successor of Alexander in Upper Asia, not only recovered, but endeavoured to augment, the acquisitions made by that conqueror in India. He gained victories over Sandracottos, the sovereign of a people living on the Ganges. But, as he was recalled to the defence of another part of his dominions against Antigonus, he made peace with the Indian: and the limits established between them are not ascertained.<sup>2</sup>

Among the kingdoms formed out of the vast empire of Alexander by the dissensions of his followers, was Bactria. This district was part of that great range of country, on the eastern side of Media and Persia, extending from the lake Aral to the mouths of the Indus, which the power of the Persian monarchs had added to their extensive dominions.<sup>3</sup> The people of this intermediate region seem to have possessed an intermediate stage of civilization between the Tartar or Scythian tribes which bordered with

<sup>1</sup> Rennel's Geography of Herodotus, p. 205. The Major, who is here puzzled with a mistranslation of 600 for 360, corrects the hyperbolical statement of the amount of the tribute, though he doubts not it was great. Herodot. lib. iii. cap. 94, 95. It is by no means impossible, or perhaps improbable, that Cyrus subdued part of India. Herodotus, who knew India, says that his general, Harpagus, subdued one part of Asia, and he another, πατρες καταστρεφομενος, και ουδεις παρεις ..... παντα τα της πειρου υποχειρια εποιησατο. Herod. lib. i. cap. 147. Justin says, that Cyrus having reduced Asia and the East in general, carried war into Scythia: lib. i. cap. 8. Xenophon says expressly, ηρθε δε και Βακτριανου και Ινδων. Cyri Institut. lib. i. cap. 1. The Persian historians describe the Persians, in the early ages, as chiefly occupied by wars in Turan and India.

<sup>2</sup> The notices relating to the conquests of Alexander and his successors in India are collected in Robertson's Disquisition concerning Ancient India, and Gillies' History of the World. Strabo and Arrian are the authorities from whom almost everything we know of the transactions of the Greeks in India is borrowed.

<sup>3</sup> This is by no means an accurate statement. The political power of Bactria may, after its acquirement of independence, have extended over this space; but the Bactrian province of Persia lay entirely to the north of the Paropamisan mountains, and had Sogdiana and the Scythians between it and the Aral lake.—W.

them on the east, and the people of the Assyrian or Persian empire which was contiguous to them on the west. BOOK III.  
CHAP. I.  
 Among these people there is some reason for believing that the Bactrians were distinguished, and at an early period, by superior progress in the knowledge, and other acquirements of civilized men. Among the numerous Zoroasters, with whom Persian story abounds, one is said to have been king of Bactria, contemporary with Ninus; and to have invented magic; that is, to have been the object of admiration on account of his knowledge. Of the eastern nations added to the subjects of the Persian kings, the Bactrians were the nearest to India, and were only separated from it by that range of mountains, in which the Indus and the Oxus find their respective sources. Bactria as well as India were among the parts of the dominions of Alexander which fell to the share of Seleucus. In the reign, however, of his son or grandson, the governor of the Bactrian province threw off his dependence upon the Seleucidae; and a separate Greek kingdom was erected in that country, about sixty-nine years after the death of Alexander. The Persian dominions in India seem to have fallen into the hands of the same usurper. The Greek sovereigns of Bactria became masters of an extensive empire, and assumed the proud title of *King of Kings*; the distinctive appellation of the Persian monarchs in the zenith of their power. They carried on various wars with India, and extended their conquests into the interior of the country.<sup>1</sup> The limits of their dominions in that direction we have no means of ascertaining. One of those great movements in central or eastern Tartary, which precipitates the eastern barbarians upon the countries of the west, brought an irresistible torrent of that people across the Jaxartes, about 126 years before the Christian era,

<sup>1</sup> Much additional light has been thrown upon the history of Bactria and the adjacent provinces of the Afghan country, by the recent discovery of large quantities of coins, bearing the effigies and names of Greek and Barbaric kings. They have been found in the tract between Balkh and the Panjab, and especially about Peshawar and Kabul, which were, no doubt, included in the dominions of the princes of Bactria, or of those principalities which were established in the direction of India by the Greeks. As most of these coins bear on one face an inscription which has been ascertained to be in a form of Prakrit, a derivative from Sanscrit; they prove that the Bactrians must have been an Indian people. See the descriptions and observations of Masson and Prinsep, J. As. Soc. of Bengal; of Jacquet, J. Asiatique, Raoul Rochette, J. des Savans; also Richter on the Topes (die Stupe) and Lassen, zur Geschichte der Griechischen und Indoskytischen Könige in Bactrien, Kabul und Indien.

BOOK III. which, pouring itself out upon Bactria, overwhelmed the  
 char. i Grecian monarchy, after it had lasted nearly 130 years.<sup>1</sup>

About the same period that the successors of Alexander, lost the kingdom of Bactria, the misconduct of a governor in the distant provinces bordering on the Caspian Sea, raised up a military chief who excited the rude and turbulent inhabitants to revolt, and laid the foundation of the Parthian kingdom ; a power which soon possessed itself of Media, and finally stripped the descendants of Seleucus of almost all that they possessed from the Tigris eastwards. The rebellion of the Parthians is placed about the year 256 before Christ ; and the kings of Syria maintained from that time a struggling and declining existence, till they finally yielded to the power of the Romans, and Syria was erected into a province sixty-four years before the commencement of the Christian era.<sup>2</sup>

The descendants of the Parthian rebel, known under the title of the Arsacides, held the sceptre of Persia till the year of Christ 226. The possession of empire produced among them, as it usually produces among the princes of the East, a neglect of the duties of government, and subjugation to ease and pleasure ; when a popular enterprising subject, availing himself of the general dissatisfaction, turned the eyes of the nation upon himself,

<sup>1</sup> A curious history of the Greek kingdom of Bactria has been compiled by Bayer, entitled, *Historia regni Graecorum Bactriani*. In this, and in Strabo, lib. xi. Diod. lib. xv. and Justin, lib. xli. the only remaining memorials of this kingdom are to be found. The progress of the barbarians by whom it was destroyed has been traced by De Guignes, *Mém. de Littérat.* xxv. 17, and *Hist. des Huns, passim*. Herodotus says that those of the Indians, whose mode of life most resembled those of the Bactrians, were the most warlike of all the Indians (lib. iii. cap. 102), which would seem to indicate a nearer affinity between the Hindus, and their Bactrian neighbours, than is generally supposed. There is some confusion, however, in this part [REDACTED] nor is it easy to know whether he means the people called Indians or [REDACTED] those beyond the Indus, when he says they were like the Bactrians. He distinguishes them from the Indians living προς τον αρεμον, by saying they were contiguous to the city Caspatyrus and the Pactyan territory, and lying προς βορεον αρεμον (lib. iii. cap. 102), but (cap. 93 of the same book) he says that the Pactyan territory is contiguous to Armenia, and the countries on the Eaxne Sea. Yet in another place (lib. iv. cap. 44) he says that Scylax setting out from the city Caspatyrus, and the Pactyan territory, sailed down the Indus eastward to the sea. And Rennel places Caspatyrus and Pactya towards the sources of the Indus, about the regions of Cabul and Cashmere. Rennel's Mem. Introd. p. xxiii. Rennel's Herodot. sect. 12.—M.

Some illustrations of the position of these countries may be found in the As. Res. v. xv., Essay on Kashinir, and in Lassen's *Pentapotamia*.—W.

<sup>2</sup> What is known to us from the Greek and Roman authors, of the Parthian empire, is industriously collected in Gillies' History of the World ; from the oriental writers by D'Herbelot, *Biblioth. Orient. ad verba Arschak, Arminiah*. See also Gibbon, i. 316.

and having dethroned his master, substituted the dynasty BOOK III. of the Sassanides to the house of Arsaces. As usual, the CHAP. I. first princes of this line were active and valiant; and their empire extended from the Euphrates to the Jaxartes, and the mountainous ridge which divided the kingdom of Bactria from the Scythians of the East. To what extent their power was carried over the ancient soil of the Hindus, does not appear; but it is more than probable that the territory west of the Indus, from the time when it was first established into a Persian satrapy, in the reign of Darius, owned no more the caste who sprung from the arm of the Creator. Bactria was numbered as one among the four provinces of the great Chosroes, who reigned from the year 531 of the Christian era to the year 571, and was denominated King of Persia and of India. The grandson of Chosroes, who was deposed in 628, may be considered ~~a member~~<sup>as</sup> of the line of the Sassanides; for, after a few years' tumult and distraction, the irresistible arms of the successors of Mohammed were directed toward Persia, and quickly reduced it under the power of the Caliphs.<sup>1</sup>

In the year 632, Caled, the lieutenant of Abubeker, entered Persia. In a few years the standards of the Faithful were carried to the farthest limits of Bactria, and pushing once more the shepherds of the East beyond the Jaxartes, rendered the empire of the Caliphs in that direction conterminous with the Persian monarchy in its proudest days.<sup>2</sup>

The possession of empire required, as usual, but a few generations to relax the minds of the successors of Mohammed, and render them as unfit as their predecessors for any better use of power than the unrestrained indulgence of themselves in the pleasures which it commands.

The tribes of Tartar, or Scythian shepherds, from the centre of Asia, unsettled, fierce, and warlike, had from the

<sup>1</sup> In Gibbon, vols. vii. viii. ix. the reader will find a slight sketch, correctly but quaintly given, of this portion of the Persian history. Gibbon's first object unfortunately was to inspire admiration of the writer; to impart knowledge of his subject only the second. The results of the Persian records (if such they may be called) are carefully collected in D'Herbelot, *Bibliothèque Orient.*, under the several titles.—M.

Further notices of the Arsacidæ princes, have been subsequently published by Col. Vans Kennedy, Tr. Bombay, Lit. Soc. v. 3, and by M. St. Martin, in the *J. Asiatique*, and *Mémoires de l'Académie*.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Gibbon, ix. 364; D'Herbelot, *Bibliothèque Orient. ad verb.*

**BOOK III.** teen successive and powerful princes, who reigned till the year 1056. They conquered the provinces of Gilan, Mazenderon, Erak, Fars, Kerman, Khosistan, Ahvaz, Tabarestan, and Goorgian : and rendered themselves masters of the Caliphs, to whom they left only a shadow of authority.<sup>1</sup>

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**CHAP. I.** About the year of Christ 967, Subuctagi, a servant of the Samanides, was appointed governor of the Indian province of Candahar, or Ghazna, as it is called by the Persian writers ; from the name of the capital Ghizni. Having raised himself from the condition of a Turkish slave to such a degree of power as made it dangerous to recall him from his government, he left it to his son Mahmood, who asserted his independence, and founded the dynasty of the Ghaznevides. Mahmood subverted the throne of the Samanides, reduced to a shadow the power of the Bowides, and reigned from the Tigris<sup>2</sup> to the Jaxartes. He also made extensive conquests towards the south ; and, as he was the first who in that direction bore the crescent beyond the farthest limits of the Persian empire, and laid the foundation of the Mohammedan thrones in India, we are now arrived at the period when the Mohammedan History of India begins.<sup>3</sup>

The northern provinces of India, Cabul, Candahar, Multan, and the Punjab, appear, from the days of Darius Hystaspes, to have followed the destiny of Bactria, Khorasan, and Transoxiana, the eastern appendages of Persia, and, excepting some short intervals, to have been always subject to a foreign yoke. Even the White Huns, who established themselves in Sogdiana, on the river Oxus, and in Bactria, about the end of the first century of the Christian era, advanced into India, and in the second century were masters as far as Larice or Guzerat.<sup>4</sup> Mahmood was already master of the dominions of the Samanides, and of all the eastern provinces that had occasionally owned allegiance to the Persian throne ; when he first,

<sup>1</sup> D'Herbelot, *Biblioth. Orient. ad verb.* Balsh.

<sup>2</sup> This is not quite correct. Mahmood was content with the province of Khorasan in Persia.—W.

<sup>3</sup> D'Herbelot, *Biblioth. Orient. ad verb.* Selecteghen, Mahmood, Gaznawiah ; Ferishtah, by Dow, 1. 41, 2d Ed. in 4to.

<sup>4</sup> The origin and progress of the Indo-Scythe are traced in D'Anville sur l'Inde, pp. 18, 45, and 69, &c. His authorities are drawn from Dionys. Perieget. 1028, with the Commentary of Eustathius, and Cosmas, *Topograph. Christ.* lib. ix.

says the Persian historian, "turned his face to India." BOOK III.  
 This expedition, of which the year 1000 of the Christian era is assigned as the date, seems to have been solely intended to confirm or restore the obedience of the governors who had submitted to his father, or been accustomed to obey the masters of Eastern Persia; and few of its particulars have been thought worthy of record. He renewed his invasion the succeeding year, and proceeded so far as to alarm a prince who reigned at Lahore, a city, on one of the most eastern branches of the Indus, which gave its name to a small kingdom. This prince, called by the Persian historians Jeipal, or Gepal, met him, with his whole army, and was defeated. It was, according to the same historians, a custom or law of the Hindus, that a prince, twice defeated by Mohammedan arms, was unworthy to reign; and as this misfortune had happened to Jeipal, who had formerly yielded to Subuctagi, he resigned the throne to his son Anundpaul, and burnt himself alive in solemn state.<sup>1</sup>

In the year 1004 Mahmood again marched into India to chastise, for defect of duty, a tributary prince on the Indus. His presence was still more urgently required the following year, when the king of Multan revolted, and was joined by Anundpaul. Mahmood was met by Anundpaul as he was descending through the pass in the intervening mountains. Anundpaul was conquered and obliged to fly into Cashmere: when the king of Multan endeavoured, by submission, to save what he could. As Mahmood had received intelligence that a body of Tartars had invaded his northern provinces, he was the more easily softened; and leaving Zab Sais,<sup>2</sup> a Hindu who had embraced the Mohammedan religion, his lieutenant, or governor in India, marched to repel the invaders.<sup>3</sup>

During this expedition against the Tartars, Zab Sais revolted; resumed the Brahmenical faith; and was on the point of being joined by a confederacy of Rajas, or Hindu sovereigns, when Mahmood hastened back to India, took

<sup>1</sup> Ferishta (*apud*, Dow, Hist. of Hindost. i. 40—42;) D'Herbelot, Bibl. Orient. *ad verb.* Mahmood.

<sup>2</sup> This name is omitted in Col. Briggs's translation of Ferishta, and the MSS. give it variously, as Ab-sù or Ab-basa; the Hindu appellation is written Sewak-pal, or Sikh-pal.—W.

<sup>3</sup> Ferishta, *ut supra*, pp. 42—44; D'Herbelot, *ut supra*.

**BOOK III.** formed that two districts on the borders of Hindustan  
**CHAP. I.** refused to acknowledge the true prophet, and continued  
 the worship of lions.<sup>1</sup> The zeal of the religious sultan  
 immediately took fire. Having speedily brought to reason  
 the disrespectful provinces, he marched to Lahore, which  
 he gave up to pillage. According to custom, it afforded  
 enormous riches. Mohammedan governors were estab-  
 lished in this and several other districts of Hindustan.

The twelfth expedition of the Ghiznian monarch was  
 undertaken in the year 1024. He had heard not only of  
 the great riches and supposed sanctity of the temple of  
 Sumnaut, but of the presumption of its priests, who had  
 boasted that other places had yielded to the power of  
 Mahmood, by reason of their impiety; but if he dared to  
 approach Sumnaut, he would assuredly meet the reward  
 of his temerity. Mahmood, having arrived at Multan,  
 gave orders to his army to provide themselves with water  
 and other necessaries for crossing a desert of several days'  
 march, which lay between this city and Ajmere. The  
 Raja and people of Ajmere abandoned the place at his  
 approach. They were invited to return, and experience  
 the clemency of the victor; but not complying, beheld  
 their country desolated with fire and sword. Arrived at  
 Sumnaut, which was a strong castle, situated on the pro-  
 montory of Guzerat, near the city of Diu,<sup>2</sup> washed on  
 three sides by the sea, Mahmood met with a more serious  
 resistance than any which he had yet encountered in Hin-  
 dustan. Not only did the priests and guardians of the  
 temple defend it with all the obstinacy of enthusiasm and  
 despair, but a largo army collected in the surrounding  
 kingdoms was brought to its defence. Having triumphed  
 over all resistance, the religious sultan entered the tem-

<sup>1</sup> This incorrect expression, which refers to the fourth avatar, shows the carelessness and ignorance of Ferishta and the Persian historians, in regard to the Brahmanical faith.—M.

It is probably some blunder of the copyists, unless the mistake have originated in a misconception of the term "Sinh," in the name of Sakya Sinh, or Buddha, as its common import is "lion"; in that case, "Buddhists" may be intended. In some copies, the word is "But" an idol in general. The countries are called by Ferishta, Kuriat, and Nardein; names not verifiable, and probably inaccurate. They are said to lie amongst the mountains, on the borders of India, between it and Turkestan, and were possibly in the direction of the modern Kaseristan, or little Tibet.—W.

<sup>2</sup> D'Herbelot, misled by some of the Persian historians, makes Sumnaut the same with the city of Vlisapore in the Deccan. Biblioth. Orient. ad verbum Sounenat.

ple. Filled with indignation at sight of the gigantic idol, **BOOK III.**  
 he aimed a blow at its head, with his iron mace. The **CHAR. I.**  
 nose was struck from its face. In vehement trepidation  
 the Brahmens crowded around, and offered millions<sup>1</sup> to  
 spare the god. The Omrahs dazzled with the ransom  
 ventured to counsel acceptance. Mahmood, crying out  
 that he valued the title of breaker, not seller of idols,  
 gave orders to proceed with the work of destruction. At  
 the next blow, the belly of the idol burst open : and forth  
 issued a vast treasure of diamonds, rubies, and pearls ;  
 rewarding the holy perseverance of Mahmood, and explaining  
 the devout liberality of the Brahmens.<sup>2</sup> After this  
 Mahmood took vengeance on the rajas who had confederated  
 to defend the temple, and reduced all Guzerat to his  
 obedience. It is said that he was so captivated with the  
 beauty of the country, the richness of the soil, and the  
 salubrity of the climate, that he conceived the design of  
 making it the place of his residence, and resigning Ghizni  
 to one of his sons. Diverted from this design by the  
 counsels of his friends, he placed a Hindu governor over  
 the province, and after an absence of two years and six  
 months, returned to Ghizni. A people whom the transla-  
 tor of Ferishta calls the Jits, afterwards better known  
 under the name of Jaats, who inhabited part of the coun-  
 try bordering on the Indus, southward from Multan,  
 either failed in respect or gave molestation, as he marched

<sup>1</sup> Ferishta says "some crores of gold. Dow says in a note, at the bottom of the page, "ten millions," which is the explanation of the word crore. Mr. Gibbon says, rashly and carelessly, that the sum offered by the Brahmens was *ten millions sterling*. Decl. and Fall. x. 337.

<sup>2</sup> The whole story of Mahmood's destruction of Somnath, is a curious specimen of the manner in which a story is embellished by repetition. According to earlier Mohammedan writers, the idol Somnath, was a straight solid block of stone, three cubits long ; which, upon the temple being pillaged, was broken to pieces : they say nothing of the mutilation of its features, for, in fact, it had none : nothing of the treasures it contained ; which, as it was solid, could not have been within it : nor do they speak of the sums offered for its ransom. Rozet-ns-Safa, Tabkat Akberi. Even Ferishta says nothing of any definite sum of money being offered for it. His words are, the Brahmans went to the attendants of Mahmood, and said, if the king will let the image alone, we will give as much gold, meaning, probably, an equal weight, to the public treasury. The crores and millions are due to Dow and Gibbon. Ferishta, however, invents the hidden treasure of rubies and pearls with quite as little warrant. Somnath was, in fact, a Linga, a Nath, or deity ascribed to Soma, the moon, as having been erected by him in honour of Sivh. It was one of the twelve principal types of that deity, which were celebrated in India at the time of the first Mohammedan invasion. Nandi Upapurana. See Calcutta Annual Register, 1821. Tracts, p. 34, and As. Res. vol. xvii., p. 194.

**BOOK III.** from Guverat. Returning in the same year to chastise them, he defeated 4000 or 8000 (so wide are the accounts) of their boats, launched on the river to defend an island to which, as the place of greatest safety, they had conveyed the most valuable of their effects, and the most cherished of their people.<sup>1</sup> This was the last of the exploits of Mahmood in India, who died at Ghizni in the year 1028. Mahmood, the son of Subuctagi, the Turkish slave, is one of the most celebrated of eastern princes. He was supposed to possess in the highest perfection almost every royal virtue. He patronized learning, and encouraged the resort of learned men. Ferdosi, the author of the Shah Namah, the most celebrated poem of the East, was entertained at his court.

After a short contest between Mohammed and Musaood, the sons of Mahmood, Musaood mounted the throne of Ghizni, and the eyes of Mohammed were put out. Musaood entered India three times, during the nine years of his reign; and left the boundaries of the Ghaznevide dominions there in the situation nearly in which he received them. His first incursion was in the year 1032, when he penetrated by the way of Cashmere; and his only memorable exploit was the capture of the fort of Sursutti, which commanded the pass. In 1034, he sent an army which chastised a disobedient viceroy. And in 1035, he marched in person to reduce Sewalik, a kingdom or rajaship lying at the bottom of the mountains near the place where the Ganges descends upon the Indian plains. He assailed the capital, of great imputed strength; took it in six days; and found in it incredible riches. From this he proceeded against the fort of Sunput, a place about forty miles distant from Delhi on the road to Lahore, the governor of which abandoned it upon his approach, and fled into the woods. He proposed to march against another prince, called Ram; but Ram, understanding his intentions, endeavoured to divert the storm by gifts and compliments, and had the good fortune to succeed. Musaood was recalled from India to oppose an enemy, destined to render short the splendour of the house of Ghizni.

During several centuries, the movements westward of the

<sup>1</sup> Ferishta, *apud* Dow, Mahmood I.; D'Herbelot, Bibl. Orient. *ad verb.* Mahmood.

hordes of Turkmans had been accumulating that people BOOK III.  
upon the barriers of the Persian empire. In the reign of CHAP. I.  
Mahmood, three brothers, sons of Seljuk, solicited per-  
mission to pass the Oxus, with their flocks and herds,  
and to enjoy the unoccupied pastures of Khorasan.  
Mahmood, disregarding the advice of his best counsellors,  
granted their request. The example set, the number of  
Tartars in Transoxiana and Khorasan continually increased.  
During the vigilant and vigorous reign of Mahmood, the  
Turks behaved so much like peaceable subjects, that no  
complaint against them seems to have been raised. But  
in the days of his son and successor Musaood, the inha-  
bitants of Khorasan and Transoxiana complained that  
they were oppressed by the strangers, and Musaood at  
last resolved to drive them back from his dominions,  
Togrul Beg, however, the son of Michael, the son of Seljuk,  
offered himself as a leader and a bond of union to the Turks;  
opposed Musaood; triumphed over him in the field; ren-  
dered himself master of the northern provinces of his  
empire, and established the dynasty of the Seljukides.  
Having baffled the power of the Sultan of Ghizni, Togrul  
found nothing remaining to oppose to him any serious  
resistance, from the Oxus to the Euphrates; he extin-  
guished the remaining sparks of the power of the Bowides;  
and took the Caliph under his protection. Togrul was  
succeeded by his nephew Alp Arslan, and the latter by his  
son Malek Shah; both celebrated warriors, who pushed the  
limits of their empire beyond the Euphrates and the Jax-  
artes, and made deep inroads upon the Roman provinces  
and the Tartar plains. The provinces of Zabulistan or  
Candahar, of Segistan, or Seistan, and Cabul, with the  
provinces in India beyond the Hydaspes, were all that at  
last remained to the Ghaznevides.

Musaood, returning from the defeat which he, deserted  
by his troops, had sustained at the hand of the Turkmans,  
and hastening to India to recruit his forces, was deposed by  
a mutiny in the army, and his brother Mohammed, whose  
eyes he had put out, was placed upon the throne. Modood,  
the son of Musaood, who had been left by his father with  
an army at Balkh, marched against Mohammed, whom  
he dethroned. Modood made some efforts against the  
Seljukians, and for a time recovered Transoxiana. But the

**BOOK III.** feebleness and distraction now apparent in the empire of **CHAP. I.** the Ghaznevides encouraged the Raja of Delhi, in concert with some other rajas, to hazard an insurrection. They reduced Tannasur, Hansi the capital of Sewalik, and even the fort of Nagracote. The Rajas of the Punjab endeavoured to recover their independence; and the Mohammedan dominion was threatened with destruction.

In the year 1049 Modood died; and a rapid change of princes succeeded, violently raised to the throne, and violently thrown down from it. His son Musaood, a child of four years old, was set up by one general; and, after a nominal reign of six days, gave place to Ali, the brother of Modood, who was supported by another. Ali reigned about two years, when he was dethroned by Abdul Reshid, his uncle, son of the great Mahmood. Togrul, governor of Segistan, rebelled against Reshid, and slew him after reigning one year. Togrul himself was assassinated after he had enjoyed his usurpation but forty days. Furokhzad, a yet surviving son of Musaood, was then raised to the throne, who, dying after a peaceable reign of six years, was succeeded by his brother Ibrahim.

Ibrahim reigned a period of no less than forty-two years. After he had terminated his disputes with the dangerous Seljukians, by resigning to them all the provinces they had usurped of the Ghaznevide empire, he directed his ambition towards India. An army which he dispatched into that country is said to have reduced to his obedience many places which had not yet yielded to the Moslem arms. In the year 1080, he marched in person: and by the successful attack of several places of strength, added the territory they protected to his dominions.<sup>1</sup> Against the house of Seljuk, now reigning over Persia, Khorasan, and Bucharia, the latter comprehending the ancient provinces or kingdoms of Bactria, Sogdiana, and Transoxiana, he found protection chiefly by intermarriages and alliance.

Ibrahim was succeeded by his son Musaood, who enjoyed a peaceable reign of sixteen years. With the exception of one expedition, under one of his generals, who penetrated

<sup>1</sup> Ferishta mentions a city to which he came (the place not intelligibly marked,) the inhabitants of which came originally from Khorasan, having been banished thither with their families, for rebellion, by an ancient Persian king. See Ferishta, Dow, i. 117.

beyond the Ganges, India remained unmolested by his arms. BOOK III.  
But as the Indian provinces now formed the chief portion CHAP. I.  
of his dominions, Lahore became the principal seat of his ——  
government.

"His son Shere," says the Persian historian, "placed his foot on the imperial throne; but within a year was assassinated by his brother Arsilla." Byram, one of the brothers of Arsilla, made his escape; and fled to the governor of Khorasan, who was brother to the king of Persia, and to his own, and Arsilla's mother. By the assistance of this prince, his uncle, who marched with an army to his support, he de-throned Arsilla, and assumed the reins of government, which had been held by the usurper for three years.

Byram, or Bahram, was twice called into India by the disobedience of the governor of Lahore, who aspired to independence. But he had no sooner settled this disturbance, than he was called to oppose the governor of another of his provinces, whose rebellion was attended with more fatal consequences. A range of mountainous country, known by the name of the mountains of Gaur, occupies the space between the province of Khorasan and Bactria on the west and north, and the provinces of Segistan, Candahar, and Cabul on the south. The mountaineers of this district, a wild and warlike race, had hardly ever paid more than a nominal obedience to the sovereigns of Persia. The district, however, had been included in the dominions of the Sultans of Ghizni; and had not yet been detached by the Seljukian encroachments. In the days of Byram, a descendant of the ancient princes of the country, Soury by name, was governor of the province. Finding himself possessed of power to aim at independence, he raised an army of Afghans, such is the name (famous in the history of India) by which the mountaineers of Gaur are distinguished, and chased Byram from his capital of Ghizni. Byram, however, having collected and recruited his army, marched against his enemy, and aided by his subjects of Ghizni, who deceived and betrayed their new master, gained a complete victory, and put the Gaurian to a cruel death. The power which he gained was but of short duration. Alla, the brother of Soury, who succeeded him in his usurped dominion, hastened to repair his loss. Byram was defeated in a decisive battle, and fled towards India; but sunk under his misfortunes,

BOOK III. and expired, after a languid, but gentle reign of thirty-five  
CHAP. II. years.

He was succeeded by his son Khosroo, who withdrew to India, and made Lahore his capital. This prince cherished the hope of recovering the lost dominions of his house from the Gaurian usurper, by aid from his kinsman, the king of Persia: and collected an army for that purpose: but at this moment a fresh horde of Turkman Tartars rushed upon the Persian provinces, and inundated even Kabul and Candahar, from which the Gaurians were obliged to retire. The Turks, after two years' possession, were expelled by the Gaurians. The Gaurians were again defeated by the arms of Khosroo, and yielded up the temporary possession of Ghizni to its former masters. Khosroo continued to reside at Lahore, and having died after a reign of seven years, was succeeded by his son Khosroo the Second.

Mohammed, brother to the Gaurian usurper, pursued the same ambitious career. He soon rendered himself master of the kingdom of Ghizni or Candahar: and not satisfied with that success, penetrated even into India; overran Multan, with the provinces on both sides of the Indus; and advanced as far as Lahore. After an uninteresting struggle of a few years, Khosroo was subdued; and in the year 1184 the sceptre was transferred from the house of Ghizni to the house of Gaur. The same era which was marked by the fall of the Ghaznevides, was distinguished by the reduction of the house of Seljuk. The weakness and effeminacy which, after the vigour and ability of the founders of a new dynasty, uniformly take place among the princes their successors, having relaxed the springs of the Seljukian government, the subordinate governors threw off their dependence; and a small portion of the dominions of Malek now owned the authority of Togril his descendant.

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## CHAPTER II.

*From the Commencement of the first Gaurian Dynasty to that of the second Gaurian or Afghan Dynasty.*

MOHAMMED left the government of India after the defeat and death of Khosroo, in the hands of a viceroy and returned to Ghizni. After an absence of five years, he

marched towards Ajmere; and, having taken the city of Tiberhind, is said to have been on his way back, when he heard that the Rajas of Ajmere and Delhi, with others in confederacy, were advancing with a large army to relieve the city which he had just taken and left. He turned and met them a little beyond Tannasar. Having incautiously allowed his army to be surrounded by superior numbers, he was defeated, and, being severely wounded, escaped with great difficulty from the field of battle. He took such measures as the moment allowed, to secure his provinces and forts, and hastened to Gaur.

CHAP. II.  
1190.

After little more than a year he was prepared to return to India with a formidable army of Turks, Persians, and Afghans. The combined Rajas had consumed their time in the siege of Tiberhind, which had resisted them for one year and one month. No fewer, it is said, than 150 kings, with their armies, amounting, by "the lowest and most moderate account, to 300,000 horse, 3000 elephants, and a great body of infantry," met him on the former field of battle. The Rajas sent him an insulting proposal that he might be permitted to march back unmolested, if he had the prudence to decline the combat. Mohammed had learned wisdom from experience. Sending an humble answer, that he was only the servant of his brother, bound to execute his commands, and praying for time, to learn the will of his master; he filled the Rajas, and their enormous camp with an ill-grounded and intemperate presumption. While they were spending the night in revelling and joy, Mohammed crossed the river with his army, and fell upon them before the alarm was spread. The extent of the camp was so great, that a part of the army had time to form itself, and advance to cover the flight. Mohammed immediately drew off his troops to meet them. Forming a strong reserve of his chosen horse, he ordered the rest of his army, drawn up in four lines, to receive the enemy calmly. The first line, having discharged its missile weapons, was made to withdraw to the rear; the next, coming in front, discharged in like manner its weapons, and in like manner gave place to another. By this stratagem were the enemy held in play, "till the sun was approaching the west," when Mohammed, placing himself at the head of his reserve, rushed upon the fatigued and now presumptuous multitude; who were im-

*BOOK III.* meditately thrown into the greatest disorder, and “recoiled, CHAP. II. like a troubled torrent, from the bloody plain.”

Shortly after this event, Mohammed returned to Ghizni,  
 1192. leaving the fruits of the victory to be gathered and secured by his favourite general, Koottub. The events of this man's life, though far from singular in the East, involved extraordinary changes of condition and fortune. In his childhood, he was brought from Turkestan to Nishapore, the capital of Khorasan, and there sold for a slave. It happened that the master by whom he was bought had the disposition to give him education, and that the quickness of his parts enabled him to profit by this advantage. The death of his patron, however, exposed him once more to the chance of the market; which fortunately assigned him to Mohammed the Gaurian. His intelligence and assiduity attracted in time the notice of the Prince. He advanced by gradual accessions of favour, till he rose to be Master of the Horse. Even misfortune, though he lost a detachment of men, and was taken prisoner by the enemy, did not lose him the kindness of Mohammed: or interrupt the career of his promotion.

Koottub improved, with diligence and ability, the advantages which his master had gained in India. He reduced the surrounding districts; took the fort of Merat; and invested Delhi. The garrison ventured to meet him in the field. He vanquished them; and, surmounting all opposition, obtained possession of the city.

Mohammed returned to India in 1193. Koottub was received with the highest marks of distinction; and being honoured with the command of the van of the army, he conquered the raja of Benares; where Mohammed destroyed innumerable idols, and obtained, of course, incalculable riches. The whole country submitted, to the confines of Bengal.

Upon the return of Mohammed to Ghizni, Koottub was declared his adopted son, and confirmed in the government of India. By various expeditions, he chastised repeatedly the refractory rajahs of Ajmere and Guzerat; took the cities of Calinger and Kalpy, with their respective territories; and at last made himself master of the forts of Biana and Gualior.

In the year 1202, Mohammed was excited to try his for-

tive for a share in the dismemberment of the Seljukian empire. Among the provinces of which the governors had thrown off their dependence upon the Seljukian princes, that of Kharismia, on the eastern side of the Caspian Sea, had risen to the rank of an independent kingdom, under a race of prince, known by the name of the Kharismian dynasty. Against Takash, the reigning sovereign of this kingdom, Mohammed led an army. But Osman, a Tartar chief, who had assumed the rank of sovereign in another part of Transoxiana, and had Samarcand for his capital, marched to the assistance of Takash; Mohammed sustained a total defeat; and was fain, by a great ransom, to purchase return to his own country. Intelligence of his defeat was to his servants the signal for revolt. His slave Ildekuz, having assumed supremacy in his capital of Ghizni, refused him admittance. He continued his route to Multan, where another of his servants took arms against him. Being joined by many of his friends, he gave the traitor battle, and obtained the victory. He next collected such of his troops as were in the contiguous provinces of India, and marched back to Ghizni where the rebellious slave was delivered up by the inhabitants.

At the same time with the other rebellious attempts, to which his defeat by the Kharismians had given birth, a tribe of Indians, inhabiting the country about the sources of the Indus from the Nilab or western branch of that river upwards to the Sowalik mountains; called by the Persian historian, Gickers, and by him described as a people excessively rude and barbarous, putting their female children to death; attempted the recovery of their independence, and proceeded towards Lahore. Mohammed had no sooner recovered his capital than he marched against them; and Koottub at the same time advancing from Delhi, they were attacked on both sides, and speedily subdued. Mohammed was returning to Ghizni, when he was murdered in his tent by two Gickers, who penetrated thither in the night.

The death of Mohammed, who left no children, produced a contest for the succession, and a division of the empire. Mahmood, his nephew, retained Gaur, of which he was governor. Eldoze, another governor, took possession of Candahar and Cabul; and Koottub claimed the

BOOK III.  
CHAP. II.

1292.

BOOK III. of conquest, Jangiz, about the year 1210, was acknowledged ~~emperor~~<sup>as Khan</sup>, by all the shepherd-hordes from the wall of China to the Volga. The presumption and pride of two such elevated neighbours as the emperor of China and the new sovereign of Tartary, could not fail to kindle the flames of war. Innumerable squadrons of Tartars surrounded the unwailing rampart which the Chinese had in former ages raised to exclude them. Pekin was taken; and the northern provinces of China were added to the empire of Jangiz.

About the same time a quarrel arose on the opposite side of his dominions. Mohammed was now king of Kharism, which from a revolted province had grown into the seat of a great empire, extending from the borders of Arabia to those of Turkestan. The monarch of so many provinces, which prided themselves in their riches and the requirements of civilized life, made light, it seems, of the power of him who ruled over multitudes, indeed, but of men who had no riches except their cattle, and no cities except their camps. An injury done to some of the subjects of Jangiz, for which all reparation was haughtily refused, first drew upon western Asia the fury of his arms. Mohammed crossed the Jaxartes to meet his enemy in the plains of Turkestan, with no less, it is said, than four hundred thousand men. But these were encountered by seven hundred thousand Tartars, under Jangis and his sons, who in the first battle, which was suspended by the night, laid one hundred and sixty thousand Kharismians dead upon the field.

After this fatal blow, Mohammed expected to arrest the progress of the victor, by throwing his troops into the frontier towns. But the arms of Jangiz were irresistible: the places of greatest strength were obliged to surrender; and Kharism, Transoxiana, and Khorasan, soon acknowledged the sovereignty of the Mogul. He was withdrawn, by the wishes of his troops, from the further prosecution of his conquests in the West, and died in the year 1227; but left sons and grandsons to copy the deeds of their progenitor. In the year 1258, the conquest of Persia was consummated; and the last remains of the power of the Caliphs and Seljukians trampled in the dust.

It was but an incursion which, in the year 1242, the Mo-

'guls, during the reign of Byram II., made into India : they BOOK III.  
plundered the country as far as Lahore, and then retreated CHAP. II.  
to Ghizni.

Upon the fall of Byram, the men in power thought proper to take from his prison Musaood, the son of Feroze, the late king, and set him upon the throne. In the second year of his reign, an army of Mogul Tartars made a descent into Bengal, by the way, says Ferishta, of Chitta and Tibet.<sup>1</sup> They met, we are told, with a total defeat. On the following year, however, another army of the same people crossed the Indus ; but Musaood marching against them in force, they were pleased to retire. Musaood, however, in a reign of four years, had disgusted his nobles by his vices ; and made them bold by his weakness. They combined to call Mahmood, his uncle, to the throne, and Musaood was thrown into prison for life.

Mahmood II., upon the death of his father Altumsh, had been consigned to a prison ; but there exhibited some firmness of mind, by supporting himself with the fruits of his industry in copying books ; while he often remarked that "he who could not work for his bread did not deserve it." He was released by his predecessor, Musaood, and received the government of a province ; in which he acted with so much vigour and prudence, that the fame of his administration recommended him to the Omrahs, as the fittest person to cover, with his power and authority, their rebellious enterprise.

The infirm administration of the preceding princes had introduced much disorder into the kingdom. The tribes of Hindus, known by the name of Gickers, a more active and enterprising race than the general body of their countrymen, had been guilty of many acts of insubordination

<sup>1</sup> This fact ; the passage of an army from Tartary, through Tibet, into Bengal (if real) is of no small importance. Ferishta gives us no further intelligence of the place ; and it is in vain to inquire. Chitta may perhaps correspond with Kitte or Kitay, or Catay, which is one of the names of China, but is also applied by the Persian historians to many parts of Tartary ; to the country, for example, of the Igoors : to the kingdom of Koten, south from Cashgar, &c. See D'Herbelot, Bibliothe. Orient. articles *Igurs*, *Cara Calhai*, *Tarikh*, *Khattha*, *Khotan*.—Mr. Stewart, (See Hist. of Bengal, p. 62) says, that the invasion which is here spoken of by Ferishta, was an invasion of Orissians only, not of Moguls.—M.

No confusion is made by Ferishta. The events are clearly quite distinct. There is nothing very extraordinary in an incursion into India from Tibet, through Nepal. It is not long since Nepal was invaded by a Chinese army.—<sup>r</sup> Kirkpatrick's Nepal.—W.

**BOOK III.** reign of Musaood he was raised to the dignity of lord of  
**CHAP. II.** requests ; and in that of Mahmood obtained the vizirat.

1265-70. The reign of Balin was severe ; but vigilant, clear-sighted, and consistent. He punished disobedience with rapidity and cruelty ; but he distinguished talents with care, and rewarded services with discernment and generosity. The fame of his government made his alliance be courted, even by the Mogul sovereigns who reigned over Tartary and Persia.

"He expelled," says Ferishta, "all flatterers, usurers, pimps, and players, from his court ; and being one day told, that an Omrab, an old servant of the crown, who had acquired a vast fortune by usury and monopoly in the bazaar or market, would present him with some lacks of rupees, if he would honour him with one word from the throne ; he rejected the proposal with great disdain. What, he said, must his subjects think of a king who should condescend to hold discourse with a wretch so infamous." As freedom of bargain respecting interest on loans is exceptionable, on principles of superstition alone, Balin was possibly mistaken in his instance, without being correct in his rule. The association of the king with persons infamous by their vices, sheds no moral depravity among the people, except in that proportion exactly in which it sheds contempt upon the throne.

The generosity of Balin made his court the resort and asylum of the various princes, whom the arms of Jangiz and his successors had rendered fugitives from their kingdoms. More than twenty of these unfortunate sovereigns, from Tartary, Transoxiana, Khorasan, Persia, Irak, Azarbijan, Persia proper, Roum, and Syrin, among whom were two princes of the race of the Caliphs, had allowances assigned them from the revenues of Balin, with palaces, which took their names from their possessors, and admission, on all public occasions, to the presence and throne of their benefactor. The most learned men from all Asia, accompanying their respective princes, or seeking the same asylum, were assembled at Delhi. "And the court of India," says the historian, "was, in the days of Balin, reckoned the most polite and magnificent in the world. All the philosophers, poets, and divines, formed a society every night, at the house of the prince Shehid, the heir

apparent to the empire. Another society of musicians, BOOK III.  
dancers, minstrels, players, buffoons, and story-tellers, was CHAR. II.  
constantly convened at the house of the emperor's second son,  
Kara who was given to pleasure and levity. The  
Oimtals followed the example of their superiors, so that  
various societies and clubs were formed in every quarter  
of the city.<sup>1</sup>

1283.

The hills to the south-east of Delhi were inhabited by Bihidis<sup>2</sup> who acted like part of banditti and plunderers; and advanced, in numbers, enabling an army, sometimes to the very walls of the capital. Balu ordered operations against them; and they were vanquished without mercy. Their leaders, who carried hatchets for the purpose, cut down, to the distance of one hundred miles, the woods to which the robbers retired. The cleared space proved excellent land, and was speedily peopled; the inhabitants being protected from the mountaineers by a line of forts erected at the bottom of the hills.

The Shah gave considerable employment to his army, in subduing the wild inhabitants of the mountains near the centre of his dominions; but he rejected the advice of his counsellors to re-in the distant provinces of Malwa and Gujarat, which had asserted their independence from the time of Kordub;<sup>3</sup> wisely observing, that the cloud of Moguls, now gathered on his northern frontier, presented an object of more serious and anxious regard.

His accomplished and philosophical son, Mohammed Shchid, was appointed viceroy of the northern provinces, to hold in check these dangerous neighbours. And he assembled around him the men, most eminent for thought or action, whom the Asiatic world at that time contained.

Argun, the grandson of Hallaku who subdued Persia, and the fourth in descent from Jangiz, now filled the throne of Persia; and another descendant of that renowned conqueror, by name Timur, ruled over the eastern provinces, from Khorasan to the Indus. In revenge for some former check, as well as by desire for extension of

<sup>1</sup> They were not the people of the hills, but the inhabitants of the Doab, and other bank of the Ganges below it; as Benares and Varanasi; an active, vigorous, and courageous race of peasants. Their numbers and boldness at this period show that the Mohammedan authority was far from established, even in the districts adjacent to the capital.—W.

<sup>2</sup> They had never been conquered, only invaded by the Mohammedans, and that with various success.—W.



his grandson, by the deceased Mohammed, his successor. BOOK III.  
Kora<sup>1</sup>, however, the second son of Balin, was governor of CILAP. II.  
Bengal, the most affluent province of the empire ; and the  
Omrahs, respecting his present power, more than the will  
of their deceased master, raised his son Kei Kobad to the  
throne. 1285.

Kei Kobad was in his eighteenth year, handsome in his person, of an affable and mild disposition, and not slightly tinctured with literature. His mother was a beautiful princess, daughter of the emperor Altumsh. "He delighted," says his historian, "in love, and in the soft society of silver-bodied damsels with musky tresses." He adds : " When it was publicly known that the king was a man of pleasure, it became immediately fashionable at court ; and, in short, in a few days, luxury and vice so prevailed, that every shade was filled with ladies of pleasure, and every street rung with music and mirth. The king fitted up a palace at Kilogurry, upon the banks of the river Jumna, and retired thither to enjoy his pleasures undisturbed, admitting no company but singers, players, musicians, and buffoons."

The father of Kei Kobad remained contented with his government of Bengal. But Nizam-ud-din, who became the favourite minister of the young Shah, conceived hopes, from the negligence of his master, of paving for himself a way to the throne. He proceeded to remove the persons whose pretensions were likely to obstruct his career. The many acts of cruelty and perfidy, of which he was the cause, shed discredit upon the government. The father of Kei Kobad saw the danger, and forewarned his son ; but the prince could not attend to business, without sacrificing pleasure. He found it, therefore, more agreeable to repose upon the minister, and neglected the advice. Kora, alarmed for his own fate, as well as that of his son, thought it advisable to second his advice with his presence, and his presence with an army. This was construed an act of hostility ; and the Shah marched out from Delhi, at the head of an army, to oppose his father. The father, either conscious of his inferiority in point of strength, or unwilling to proceed to the last extremity, requested an inter-

<sup>1</sup> Ferishta. Mr. Stewart says, that in his MSS. the name is Bogora.—M. Briggs writes it Kurra.—W.

## CHAPTER III.

*From the Commencement of the second Gaurian or Afghan Dynasty, to the Commencement of the Mogul Dynasty.*

BOOK III. FEROZE was seventy years of age when he became the

emperor.<sup>1</sup> Feroze was a man of intelligence; and though guilty of cruelty and injustice in acquiring or establishing his throne, he sought to distinguish himself by the justice, and also the popularity, of his administration. "For that purpose," says his historian, "he gave great encouragement to the learned of that age; who, in return, offered the incense of flattery at the altar of his fame."

Chidju,<sup>1</sup> however, a prince of the royal blood, nephew of the late Balu, and a nabob or governor of a province, obtained the alliance of several chiefs, and marched with an army towards Delhi. Feroze placed himself at the head of his army, and sent forward his son with the Chilligi cavalry. The prince encountered the enemy, and obtaining an advantage, took several Omrahs prisoners, whom he mounted upon camels with branches hung round their necks. When Feroze beheld them in this state of humiliation, he ordered them to be unbound, gave a change of raiment to each, and set an entertainment before them; repeating the verse, "That evil for evil it was easy to return; but he only was great who could return good for evil." In a few days Chidju was taken prisoner, and sent to the king; but instead of death, which he expected, received a pardon, and was sent to reside at Multan, on a handsome appointment for life. To the Omrahs of the Chilligi, displeased at so much lenity, Feroze replied, "My friends, I am now an old man, and I wish to go down to the grave without shedding blood."

The mind of this prince, however, did not, it seems, distinguish sufficiently between lenity and relaxation. The police of the empire was neglected; and robbery, murder, insurrection, ever ready to break loose in India, diffused insecurity over the nation. The Omrahs of the Chilligi "began," says Ferishta, "to lengthen the tongue

<sup>1</sup> Jujbeo is the reading of this name by Briggs.—W.

of reproach against their sovereign." The design was con- BOOK III.  
coived of raising one of themselves to the throne ; the pro- CHAP. III.  
ject was even discussed at an entertainment, at which they  
were assembled ; but one of the company privately with-  
drew and informed the emperor, who immediately ordered  
them to be arrested and brought before him. It occurred  
to one of them to represent the affair as a drunken frolic,  
and the words as the suggestion of intoxication. The  
prince was pleased to accept the apology ; and dismissed  
them with a rebuke. He was not so lenient to a Dervish,  
or professor of piety, who by the appearance of great  
sanctity, and by the distribution of great liberalities to  
the poor, the source of which no one could discover, ac-  
quired immense popularity ; and on this foundation aspir-  
ed, or was accused of aspiring, to the throne. Though  
little or no evidence appeared against him, he was cruelly  
put to death.

With his expiring breath, the holy Dervish cursed Fe-  
roze and his posterity ; nature was thrown into convul-  
sions upon the death of the saint ; and from that hour  
the fortunes of Ferozo were observed to decline. His  
eldest son was afflicted with insanity, which no power of  
medicine could remove. Factions and rebellions disturbed  
his administration. In the year 1291, Hindustan was in-  
vaded by a prince of the house of Jangiz, at the head of  
100,000 Moguls ; and though Ferozo engaged them, and  
obtained the advantage, he was glad to stipulate for the  
departure of the invaders, by consenting to let them ro-  
treat unmolested.

In this reign occurred an event of great importance in  
the history of Hindustan ; the first invasion of the De-  
ccan by Mohammedan arms. Deccan means the south ;  
and is applied in a general manner to the kingdoms and  
districts included in the southern portion of India. It  
does not appear that the application of the name was ever  
precisely fixed. It has been commonly spoken of as indi-  
cating the country south of the Nerbudda river, which  
falls into the Gulf of Cambay, at Baroach ; but as the  
Patan or Mogul sovereignties hardly extended beyond the  
rives Kistna, it is only the country between those two  
rivers which, in the language of India, commonly passes  
under the name of the Deccan.



bourhood of Lahore, in which the Indians were victorious, **BOOK III.**  
and the Moguls retreated. The successful general was **CHAR. III.**  
sent into Guzerat, which he quickly reduced to the obe-  
dience of the Shah.

1803.

The Moguls returned the following year with much greater force; and marched even to the walls of Delhi, to which they laid siege. Alla at last collected his army, and gave them battle. Though his success was not decisive, the Moguls thought proper to retreat.

The king's arbitrary maxims of government, and the odious manner in which he arrived at the supreme command, engendered disaffection; and during the first years of his reign, he was harassed by perpetual insurrections and rebellions. He applied himself, however, with industry and intelligence, to the business of government; and though his administration was severe and oppressive, it was regular and vigorous, securing justice and protection to the body of the people. His education had been so neglected that he could neither read nor write; but feeling the disadvantages under which his ignorance laid him, he had firmness of mind to set about the work of his own instruction even upon the throne; acquired the inestimable faculties of reading and writing; made himself acquainted with the best authors in the Persian language; invited learned men to his court; and delighted in their conversation.

In 1303, he projected another expedition into the Deccan by the way of Bengal, but was recalled by a fresh invasion of the Moguls of Transoxiana; who advanced as far as Delhi, but retreated without sustaining a battle. After their departure, he resolved, by an augmentation of his army, to leave himself nothing to fear from that audacious enemy. But reflecting that his revenues were unequal to so great a burden, he resolved to reduce the soldiers' pay. Reflecting again, that this would be dangerous, while the price of articles continued the same, he ordered all prices to be reduced a half; by that means, says Ferishta, with an ignorance too often matched in more instructed countries, "just doubling his treasures and revenue." The Moguls were not discouraged by frequency of repulse. The armies of the king of Transox-

BOOK III. iana twice invaded Hindustan in 1305, and were twice  
 CHAP. III. defeated by Toghluk, the general of Alla.

1810.

In the following year the design against the Deccan was renewed, and prosecuted with greater resources. Kafoor a slave and eunuch, his favorite, and, it was said, the instrument of his pleasures, was placed at the head of a grand army, and marched towards the south. He first "subdued the country of the Mahrattors,<sup>1</sup> which he divided among his Omrahs," and then proceeded to the siege of Deogur. Ramdeo endeavoured to make his peace by submission; and having agreed to pay a visit to the emperor at Delhi, and to hold his territories as a dependency, he was dismissed with magnificent presents, and his dominions were enlarged.

The division of the Deccan, known by the name of Telingana, is supposed to have extended, along the eastern coast, from the neighbourhood of Chicacole on the north, to that of Pulicat on the south; and to have been separated on the west from the country known by the name of Maharashtra, or by contraction Mahratta, by a line passing near Beder, and at some distance east of Dowlutabad, to the river Tapti.<sup>2</sup>

Alla was on his march against the Rajah of Warunkul, one of the princes in this district, in 1303, when he was recalled by another invasion of the Moguls. He made, indeed, a part of his army proceed in the expedition, for the purpose of reducing the fort of Warunkul, a place of great strength, and, by repute, of immense riches; but the project failed. In 1307, Kafoor was ordered to march into Telingana by the way of Deogur, and lay siege to Warunkul. Warunkul was taken by assault, after a siege of some months.<sup>3</sup> The Raja made his peace, by sacrificing largely to the avarice of his conquerors, and accepting the condition of a tribute.

The more Alla tasted of the plunder of the Deccan, the

<sup>1</sup> This is the first mention which we find of any of the tribes to whom the term Mahrattors or Mahratta, is applied, by the Moslem historians. From this statement we can only conjecture, that some district in the Deccan, inhabited by the description of Hindus to whom this name was applied, was overrun, and nominally parcelled out by Kafoor.

<sup>2</sup> Wilks, Hist. of Mysore, p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> The neighbouring Rajas, says Ferishta, hastened to the assistance of the Rajah of Warunkul; another proof of the division into petty sovereignties.

more he thirsted for additional draughts. In 1310, Kafoor BOOK III.  
 was sent on a more distant expedition. He marched by CHAP. III.  
 Deogur ; and penetrating as far as the Carnatic, took the  
 Raja prisoner, and ravaged his kingdom. According to the  
 historians, he returned with such wealth as no country ever  
 yielded to a predatory invader.<sup>1</sup> Nor did he remain long  
 at Delhi before he persuaded the Shah to send him once  
 more into the Deccan, where he ravaged several countries,  
 and sent the plunder to Alla. This prince had ruined his  
 constitution by intemperance in the seraglio ; and felt his  
 health in rapid decline. He sent for Kafoor from the  
 Deccan, and complained to him of the undutiful beha-  
 viour of his wife and his son. Kafoor, whose eyes had  
 already turned themselves with longing to the throne,  
 contemplated the displeasure of the emperor against his  
 family as a means for realizing his most extravagant hopes.  
 He prevailed upon Alla to throw his two eldest sons, and  
 their mother, into prison, and to put to death several of  
 the chiefs by whom his pretensions were most likely to  
 be opposed. When things were in this train, Alla expired  
 in the year 1316, in the twenty-first year of his reign.

The time was not yet come when Kafoor deemed it ex-  
 pedient to declare himself king. He produced a testa-  
 ment, genuine or spurious, of the late prince, in which he  
 appointed Omar, his youngest son, then seven years of  
 age, his successor, and Kafoor regent. The first act of  
 Kafoor's administration was to put out the eyes of the  
 two eldest of the sons of Alla : but there was a third,  
 Mubarik, who escaped, till a conspiracy of the foot-guards  
 put the regent to death, only thirty-five days after the  
 decease of his master. The reins of government were  
 immediately put into the hands of Mubarik ; but he  
 thought proper to act in the name of his young brother,  
 already upon the throne, for the space of two months, till  
 he had gained the Omrahs. He then claimed his birth-  
 right ; deposed his brother ; according to the Asiatic cus-  
 tom, put out his eyes, and sent him for life to the fort of  
 Gualior.

Mubarik was a man of vicious inclinations, and mean

<sup>1</sup> Besides several *chests* of jewels, pearls, and other precious things, the gold alone amounted to about one hundred millions sterling. Col. Dow thinks this not at all incredible : *Hist. of Hindost.* I. 276 : and Col. Wilks (*Hist. of Mysore*, p. 11) seems to have little objection.

**BOOK III.** understanding. He for a moment sought popularity, by **CHAP. III.** remitting the more oppressive of the taxes, and relaxing, ——————  
1321. the reins of government; but the last so injudiciously, that disorder and depredation overran the country.

The reduction of the revolted Guzerat was one of the first measures of Mubarik. The enterprise, being intrusted to an officer of abilities, was successfully performed.

The Rajas in the Deccan yielded a reluctant obedience; which, presuming on their distance, they imagined they might now, without much danger, suspend. Mubarik, in the second year of his reign, raised a great army, and marched to Deogur; where, not finding much resistance, he did little more than display his cruelty, in the punishment of those who, charged with enmity or disobedience, fell into his hands.

Among the favourites of Mubarik, was Hassan, formerly a slave, and according to Ferishta, the son of a seller of rags in Guzerat.<sup>1</sup> This man was an instrument of the pleasures of the Shah; and upon his accession to the throne, had been honoured with the title of Khosroo, and raised to the office of Vizir. Finding nothing more to perform in the region of Deogur, Mubarik placed Khosroo at the head of a part of the army, and sent him on an expedition against Malabar, while he himself returned with the remainder to Delhi.

The vices of Mubarik, and of his government, became daily more odious. He was the slave of every species of intemperance, and void of every humane or manly quality, which could procure the indulgence of mankind to his faults. Conspiracy succeeded conspiracy, and one insurrection another; till Khosroo, beholding the contempt in which his master was held, believed he might shed his blood with safety, and place himself upon his throne. The reputation and plunder derived from the success of his expedition to Malabar,<sup>2</sup> had added greatly to his power. He made use of his influence over the mind of the emperor, to fill, with his creatures, the chief places both in

<sup>1</sup> He was a converted Purwary or Hindoo outcast. Briggs's Ferishta, I. 387.—W.

<sup>2</sup> According to Wilks, what is here called Malabar was not the district which is now called by that name, but the hilly belt along the summit of the Ghauts, from Soonda to Coorg. Hist. of Mysore, p. 10.

the army and the state. In the year 1321, he conceived BOOK III.  
himself prepared for the blow; when in one night, Mu- CHAP. III.  
barik and his sons were destroyed.

On mounting the throne, Khosroo assumed the title of Nasir-ud-din, or defender of religion; a cause which has seldom been associated with that of government, except for the purpose of fraud; and Khosroo, it seems, was aware that, for his government, such a covering was required.

1323.

He put to death, without remorse, a great multitude of persons in the service of Mubarik; all those from whom he imagined that he had anything to fear, and distributed the offices of government among his creatures. "The army," says Ferishta, "loved nothing better than a revolution; for they had always, upon such an occasion, a donation of six months' pay immediately advanced from the treasury;" so exactly does military despotism resemble itself, on the banks of the Tiber, and those of the Ganges.

But though Khosroo met with no opposition in ascending the throne, he did not long enjoy his kingdom in peace.

Ghazi<sup>1</sup> was Governor of Lahore; and though, for the sake of securing him to his interest, Khosroo had bestowed high office and rank upon his son Jonah; Jonah made his escape from Delhi, and joined his father at Lahore.

Ghazi despatched circular letters to the Omrahs, exerted himself to raise forces, and was joined by several of the viceroys with their troops. Khosroo despatched an army to subdue the rebellion; but the soldiers of Ghazi were hardened by frequent wars with the Moguls; those of Khosroo, enervated by the debauchery of the city, were broken at the first onset; and the confederates marched with expedition to the capital. Khosroo was ready to receive them with another army. Though betrayed and deserted in the action by a part of his troops, he maintained the conflict till night; when he made a fruitless endeavour to fly with a few of his friends. Deserted by his attendants, and dragged from his lurking-place, he met the fate which he would have bestowed.

The Omrahs hastened to pay their respects to the victor;

<sup>1</sup> Ghazi Beg Taqhluk is the appellation of this nobleman in Ferishta.—W







remove thither the inhabitants of Delhi. This caprice he carried into execution, unmoved by the calamities that were to fall upon the individuals, and unable to foresee the alienation in the minds of men to which the sight and the reports of so much unnecessary evil must of necessity expose him. "The emperor's orders," says the historian, "were strictly complied with, and the ancient capital was left desolate."

1325-51.

The provinces, one after another, began now to rebel. The Governor of Multan set the example. Scarcely was he subdued when Bengal broke into insurrection. This, too, the vigour of Mohammed quickly reduced. He was thence summoned by disturbances in Telingana, where he lost great part of his army by a plague, then raging at Warunkul. But what, to the mind of Mohammed, was of more importance than the lives of half the inhabitants of Hindustan, he himself was afflicted with the tooth-ache. He even lost a tooth. This he commanded to be buried with solemn pomp, and a magnificent tomb to be erected over it.

Calamity in every shape assailed the wretched subjects of Mohammed. Such was the excess of taxation, that in many parts, particularly in the fertile country between the Jumna and the Ganges, the cultivators fled from their fields and houses, and preferred a life of plunder and rapine in the woods. From this, and from unfavourable seasons, famine raged about Delhi, and the neighbouring provinces; and multitudes of people perished from want. A chief of the Afghans came down from the mountains, and plundered the province of Multan. The fierce tribes of Hindus, called by Ferishta, Gickers, were combined by a leader, and ravaged the Punjab and Lahore.

Mohammed, struck at last with the calamities of his reign, had recourse to religion for a cure. He sent a splendid embassy to Mecca, that, his coronation being confirmed by the successor of the prophet, the blessing of Heaven might descend upon his throne.

The Rajas of Telingana and the Carnatic formed a confederacy; and within a few months expelled the Mohammedans from every place in the Deccan, except Dowlatabad.

Even the Viceroy of Oude rebelled. But the emperor, marching against him with expedition, brought him quickly

BOOK III. to his feet. Contrary to his usual practice, Mohammed pardoned the offender, and even restored him to his government; —— declaring, that he would not believe in his guilt, and ascribing 1523 A.D. his transgression to a temporary delusion, which the malice and falsehood of others had produced.

An effort was made to regain what had been lost in the Deccan, and governors and troops were despatched to the different districts; who in the way of plunder performed considerable feats. But in the mean time disturbances of a new description broke out in Guzerat. Of the mercenary troops, composed of Tartars, Asghans, and other hardy races from the North, in which consisted a great proportion of the armies of the Mohammedan emperors of Hindustan, a considerable number, during some ages, had been Moguls. Of these it would appear that a considerable body had been sent to keep in check the turbulent inhabitants of Guzerat. They began now to commit depredations, and to set the power of Mohammed at defiance. Mohammed resolved to punish and extirpate them. The presence of the emperor, and their fears, made them withdraw from Guzerat; but they retired into the Deccan, and took Dowlatabad by surprise. Mohammed allowed them little time to make an establishment. They ventured to meet him in battle, when they were partly slain and partly dispersed. Before, he could take the city, fresh disturbances arose in Guzerat. Leaving an Omrah to push the reduction of Dowlatabad, he hastened to the new insurgents. An army of no inconsiderable magnitude opposed him. He carried on his operations with vigour, and once more prevailed. But in the mean time the Moguls in the Deccan, gathering strength upon his departure, defeated his general, and pursued his troops towards Malwa. He resolved to march against them in person. But the settlement of Guzerat was an arduous and a tedious task. Before it was concluded, he fell sick, and died in the year 1351, after a reign of twenty-seven years.

His death was propitious to the Moguls in the Deccan; and afforded time for laying the foundation of a Mohamme-dan empire, which rose to considerable power, and preserved its existence for several centuries. Upon seizing Dowlatabad, the rebel chiefs agreed to elect a sovereign; when their choice fell upon Ismael, an Afghan, who had been command-

der of a thousand in the imperial army. Among the insurgents was a military adventurer of the name of Hussun. Wonderful things are recorded of his predestination to power; as usually happens in the case of those who, from a degraded station, rise to great command over the hopes and fears of mankind. He was an Afghan slave or dependent of a Brahmen, who professed astrology in Delhi. The Brahmen gave him a couple of oxen to cultivate a piece of waste ground near the city, as a means of livelihood, where his plough turned up a treasure. He informed the Brahmen; and the Brahmen, equally conscientious, or equally cautious, the emperor. The Emperor, struck with the honesty of Hussun, bestowed upon him the command of one hundred horse. The Brahmen told him, that he saw by the stars he was destined to greatness, and stipulated that, when king of the Deccan, he would make him his minister. Hussun offered his services to the first commander who was sent into the Deccan; joined the insurgents; and when Ismael was chosen king, he was decorated with the title of Zuffer Khan; and received a large jaghir for the maintenance of his troops.

BOOK III.  
CHAP. III.

1851-57.

After Mohammed was summoned from the Deccan, by the new disturbances in Guzerat, and after his general was obliged to raise the siege of Dowlatabad, Zuffer Khan marched with twenty thousand horse against Beder, a city on the Godavery, nearly a hundred miles north-west from Golconda, and about the same distance west from Warunkul. This had been the seat of a Hindu rajahship: it was at this time a station of one of the imperial generals. Zuffer Khan, obtaining the assistance of the Rajah of Warunkul, who sent him fifteen thousand men; and being reinforced with five thousand horse, detached to his assistance by the new king of Dowlatabad, engaged and defeated the army of Mohammed. Returning with glory and plunder, he was met, before reaching the capital, by the king; who could not help observing, that more attention was paid to the general than to himself. Making a merit of what would soon be necessary: and taking the pretext of his great age, he proposed to retire from the cares of government, and recommend Zuffer Khan as successor. The proposition was applauded; and the slave or peasant Hussun, mounting the new throne by the style and title of Sultan Alla-ud-din, Hussun Kon-

BOOK III. *polBhimente*, became the founder of the Bahmenee dynasty, c. 1347. at Koolburga, or Culberg, which had been the place of his residence, he named Ah-mulab, and rendered it the capital of the Deccan empire.<sup>1</sup>

Sultan Alla was not unmindful of his ancient master; from whose name he added the term Kongoh,<sup>2</sup> and according to some authorities, that of Bahmenee, Brahmen being so pronounced, to his royal titles. He invited Kongoh from Delhi; made him lord of the treasury; and in his edicts associated the name of the Brahmen with his own. Husun lived, after the acquisition of royalty, eleven years, two months, and even days; having in that time reduced to his obedience all the regions in Deccan which had ever acknowledged the sway of the emperors of Delhi. He governed with wisdom and moderation, and died at Koolburga, in the year 1357, and the sixty-seventh year of his age.<sup>3</sup>

Upon the death of the Emperor Mohammed, his nephew Feroze, whom he recommended for his successor, was in the imperial camp, and without difficulty mounted the throne. The nerves of the state were relaxed by misgovernment: and it displayed but little vigour during the days of Feroze. The governor of Bengal aspired to independence: and the emperor, after several efforts, being unable to reduce him

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<sup>1</sup> This word is more correctly, Gangoo.—W.

<sup>2</sup> A circumstantial history of the Bahmenee sovereigns was composed by Ferishta; and to Jonathan Scott we are indebted for an instructive translation of it. The above sketch of the origin of the Bahmenee dynasty is drawn partly from Ferishta's Deccan, translated by Scott; partly from his history of Delhi, translated by Dow. The facts are very shortly mentioned, or rather alluded to, by Lieut.-Col. Mark Wilks, (Historical Sketches of the South of India. ch. 1.); where the reader will also find all that research has been able to procure of Hindu materials, and all that sagacious conjecture has been able to build upon a few imperfect fragments of the history of the ancient Hindu governments in the south of India.—M.

It is not correct to say that Col. Wilks's work, however ably and industriously wrought out of imperfect materials, has exhausted those materials: his chief sources of information were the MS. collections of the late Col. Mackenzie, but a small part only of those MSS. were then accessible, nor was their extent or value understood. They are now in a much more serviceable condition, partly owing to the catalogue of the Mackenzie collection published by myself, and partly to a still more careful and competent examination of them by the Rev. Mr. Taylor, of Madras, now in progress. Besides these materials, valuable translations of inscriptions in the Deccan, and other documents relating to that part of India, have been published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, in the Madras Journal, and the Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society: so that means exist of carrying on a more connected and comprehensive view of the political and religious history of the Peninsula, from an early date of the Christian era to modern times, than were those employed by Col. Wilks.—W.

to obedience, was forced to content himself with a nominal subjection.<sup>1</sup> Feroze, however, employed himself with laudable solicitude, in promoting agriculture, and the internal prosperity of his dominions. He lived till the age of ninety years; twenty-eight of which he spent upon the throne. He is celebrated in history for having constructed fifty great aqueducts or reservoirs of water; forty mosques; thirty schools; twenty caravanseras; an hundred palaces; five hospitals; one hundred tombs; ten baths; ten spires; one hundred and fifty wells; one hundred bridges; and pleasure-gardens without number.

CHAP. III.  
1389 - 96.

Mohammed, a son of Feroze, had received the reins of government from his father, when the weight of them began to press heavily upon his aged hands. A conspiracy, however, of the Omrahs, had, after a time, obliged him to fly from the throne; and Feroze made Toghluk,<sup>2</sup> his grandson, successor. Toghluk was a friend to pleasure, and slenderly provided with talents. He made an effort to get into his power Mohammed his uncle, who had been chased from the throne; but *Mohammed threw himself into the fort of Nagracote*, which, for the present, it was deemed inexpedient to attack. The emperor, meanwhile, inspired so little respect, that Abu Beker, his cousin, in danger from his jealousy, found himself able to hurry him to his grave. By means of some Omrahs, he corrupted the imperial slaves; who assassinated their master, after he had reigned but five months.

Abu Beker was hardly more fortunate. Some of the Mogul mercenaries in the imperial service, conspired against him, and invited Mohammed from Nagracote, to place himself at their head. Mohammed succeeded; and Abu Beker resigned his life and his throne one year and six months after the death of Toghluk.

In the reign of Mohammed, the Mahrattors (Mahrattas) again appear in the field. They were soon brought to submission; and Narsing, their prince, waited upon the empe-

<sup>1</sup> Such is the account of Ferishta. Mr. Stewart (*Hist. of Bengal*, sect. iv.) follows other authorities, who represent Bengal as now erected into a Mohammedan kingdom, perfectly independent.—M.

Stewart's account is confirmed by coins struck by Sultan Sekander and his successors. J. Aslatique.—W.

<sup>2</sup> It should be Ghias-nd-din. Toghluk was the name of the family borne by all of the members.—W.

**BOOK III.** ror at Delhi. The six years of this emperor were chiefly  
**CHAP. III.** employed in subduing or anticipating the insurrections of  


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 1396. the principal Omrahs or governors, from whom he enjoyed  
 scarce an interval of repose. His son Humayoon, who suc-  
 ceeded him, was seized with a fatal disorder, and survived  
 his father not many days.

The Omrahs, after high dispute, at last raised Mahmood,  
 an infant son of the late Mohammed, to the throne. The  
 distractions in the empire increased.

Three of the most powerful Omrahs of the court, Mookurrib, Ekbal, and Sadut, fell into deadly feuds. The emperor, having left the capital, with the army commanded by Sadut, Mookurrib, fearing the resentment of Sadut, shut the gates of the city. The emperor was constrained to abandon Sadut, before he was allowed to re-enter his capital and palace. Joined by his sovereign, Mookurrib, the next day, marched out and gave battle to Sadut, but was worsted and forced back into the city. As the rains had commenced, Sadut was obliged to lead his army into quarters. He immediately sent for Noosrut, a prince of the blood, and set him up in opposition to Mahmood, by the name of Noosrut Shah. A conspiracy soon threw Sadut into the hands of Mookurrib, who put him to death. But a strong party adhered to Noosrut; and a most destructive contest ensued between the partisans of the rival kings. The balance continued nearly even for the space of three years, during which every species of calamity oppressed the wretched inhabitants. Some of the distant Subahdars looked on with satisfaction, contemplating their own elevation in the depression of the imperial power. But in the year 1396, Mohammed Jehangir, the grandson of Timur or Tamerlane, having constructed a bridge over the Indus, invaded Multan. The governor, who already regarded the province as his own, opposed him with no contemptible force; but was overcome, and resigned Multan to the conqueror. In the mean time the Omrah Ekbal obtained and betrayed the confidence of Noosrut, whom he obliged to fly to Paniput. He opened a deceitful negotiation with the Emperor, under cover of which he surprised and slew Mookurrib. All power now centred in Ekbal; and the emperor was converted into a cipher. In this situation were affairs at Delhi, when intelligence arrived that Timur himself had crossed the Indus.

The birth of Timur, or Tamerlane, was cast at one of BOOK III. those recurring periods, in the history of Asiatic sovereign- CHAP. III.  
ties, when the enjoyment of power for several generations, having extinguished all manly virtues in the degenerate descendants of some active usurper, prepares the governors of the provinces for revolt, dissolves the power of the state, and opens the way for the elevation of some new and daring adventurer. At no preceding period, perhaps, had these causes enervated the powers of government over so great a part of Asia at once, as at the time of Tamerlane. The descendants of Jangiz had formed their immense conquests into three great kingdoms; of which Persia was one; the intermediate regions of Transoxiana, Khorasan, Bactria, and Zabulistan or Kandahar, and Kabul, lying between Tartary and Persia, were the second; and Tartary itself, or rather Tartary and China in conjunction, the third. The dynasties of the race of Jangiz, in all these several kingdoms, had been in possession of power so long, as now to display the effects which possession of power in Asia invariably produces. The reigning sovereigns had everywhere given themselves up to the vices which are the natural growth of the throne; the viceroys of the provinces despised their authority; and weakness and distraction pervaded the empire. About thirty years before the birth of Timur, the kingdom of Persia had undergone a species of dissolution; almost every province, under a rebel governor, had been erected into an independency, and the whole divided into a number of petty states. From nearly the same period, the kingdom of Zagatai, (this was the intermediate sovereignty, so called from that son of Jangiz whose inheritance it became,) had been contended for by a succession of usurpers. The Mogul throne of Tartary and China had been less violently agitated, but was greatly reduced in power. Into what confusion and weakness the Afghan empire of Delhi had fallen, we have seen in sufficient detail.

Timur was born forty miles to the south of Samarcand, in the village of Sebzar, where his fathers, enjoying the rank or command of a toman of horse, had possessed a local authority for some generations. Timur had, from a tender age, been involved in the warfare of a distracted period; and by his courage, activity, and address, had, at five-and-twenty fixed upon himself the hopes and esteem of a large



repel the invader: and the desire of chastising Toktamish BOOK III.  
was the primary cause of the conquests of Timur in Tur- CHAP. III.  
kestan. He followed the enemy into regions, void of houses,  
where the men fled before him. When far driven to the  
north, they were at last constrained to fight; and the army  
of Timur, after severe suffering, repaid itself by a complete  
victory, which compelled Toktamish, with his remaining  
followers, to take shelter in the mountains on the western  
side of the Caspian Sea. From this enterprise, the victor  
returned to complete the conquest of Persia. He drove from  
the city of Bagdad, the last prince in Persia of the house of  
Jangiz; he conquered the whole of Mesopotamia; pushed  
his way into Tartary through Mount Caucasus, to chastise  
anew the insolence of Toktamish, who had passed Derbend  
and made an inroad in Shirvan; and, having settled these  
extensive acquisitions, was, in 1396, prepared to carry his  
army across the Indus.

1397.

Timur proceeded from Samareand, by the city of Termid, and passing a little to the eastward of Balk, arrived at Anderob, a city on the borders of that stupendous ridge of mountains which separates Hindustan from the regions of the north. The difficulties of the passage were not easily surmounted; but everything yielded to the power and perseverance of Timur. He descended to the city of Cabul: whence he marched towards Attock, the celebrated passage of the Indus: and in the year 1397, commenced his operations against Mubarik, who governed the frontier provinces of the empire of Delhi. Mubarik betook himself to a place of strength, and resisted the detachment sent to subdue him: but, on the approach of the conqueror with his whole army, he fled, with his family and treasure. The attention of Timur was now called to the situation of his grandson, who had invaded Hindustan the preceding year. The solstitial rains had forced him to draw his army into Multan, after it had suffered much from the season: and no sooner was he enclosed within the city, than the people of the country invested it, preventing supplies. Mohammed was reduced to the greatest distress, when his grandfather detached a body of horse to support him, and soon after followed with his whole army. He ravaged Multan and Lahore, putting the inhabitants of such of the cities as presumed to offer any resistance indiscriminately to the sword. Without

BOOK III. further delay, he directed his march towards Delhi, and  
 CHAP. III. encamped before the citadel.

On the seventh day, though unlucky, Ekbal, and his ostensible sovereign marched out to engage him. But the enervated troops of Delhi scarcely bore to commence the action with the fierce soldiers of the north; and Timur pursued them with great slaughter to the walls of Delhi. Ekbal and Mahmood fled from the city in the night, the sovereign towards Guzerat, the minister towards Birren; upon which the magistrates and omrahs of the city tendered their submissions, and opened the gates. In levying the heavy contributions imposed upon the city, disputes arose between the Moguls of Timur and the inhabitants, when blood began to flow. One act of violence led to another, till the city was involved in one atrocious scene of sack and massacre, which Timur was either (authorities differ) careless to prevent, or pleased to behold.

Timur remained at Delhi fifteen days, and arrested the progress of conquest in Hindustan. Having received the submissions of several omrahs, the governors or subahdars of provinces, and confirmed them in their commands, he marched in a northern direction, overrunning the country on both sides of the Ganges, till he reached the celebrated spot where it issues from the mountains. He then advanced along the bottom of the hills to Kabul, and thence proceeded to Samarcand.

Delhi remained in a state of anarchy for two months after the departure of the Moguls. It was then entered by the pretended emperor Noosrut, with a small body of horse. Ekbal, however, by means of some Zemindars, was still able to dislodge him, and recovered the Doab, or country between the rivers, which, with a small district round the city, was all that now acknowledged the sovereign of Delhi. The governors or subahdars of the provinces all assumed independence, and adopted royal titles. Lahore, Dibalpore [Punjab,] and Multan, were seized by Khizer; Kanoj, Oude, Korah, and Jonpoor, by Khaja Jehan, then styled the king of the East; Guzerat, by Azim; Malwa, by Dilawur; and the other departments, by those who happened in each to have in their hands the reins of government. Ekbal made some efforts, but attended with little success, to extend his limits. He received Mahmood, who fled from the dis-

spectful treatment bestowed on him by the governor or king of Guzerat; but compelled him to live on a pension, without claiming any share in the government. At last he came to blows with Khizer, the powerful usurper of Multan and Lahore; when he was defeated, and lost his life in the action. Mahmood then recovered a small remainder of the power which once belonged to the Shahs of Delhi; but knew not how to employ it either for his own or the public advantage. Nothing but the struggles and contests which prevailed among the usurpers of the provinces prevented some one of them from seizing his throne, and extinguishing his impotent reign in his blood; when dying of a fever, in the year 1413, "the empire fell," says Ferishta, "from the race of the Turks [or Tartars] who were adopted slaves of the emperor Mohammed Gauri, the second of the race of the sovereigns of India, called the dynasty of Gaur."<sup>1</sup> An Omrah, who happened to be in command at Delhi, presumed to mount the vacant throne; but Khizer, with the troops and resources of Multan and Lahore, found little difficulty in throwing him down from his rash elevation.

Within a short period subsequent to the departure of Timur from Delhi, that conqueror had settled the affairs of Persia; reduced Syria, Egypt, and Asia Minor; defeated Bajazet the Turkish emperor on the plains of Galatia; and prepared a vast expedition against China, which he was conducting through the plains and across the mountains of Tartary, when he fell sick, and died, in the year 1405, leaving his vast empire to his son Sharokh.

Khizer, it seems, was of the race of the prophet. His father had been adopted as the son of a great Omrah, who was governor of Multan, in the reign of Feroze. Upon the death of this Omrah and his son, the father of Khizer succeeded as Subahdar of Multan, and from him the government descended to his son. At the time when Timur arrived in India, he was involved in difficulties, through the power of a neighbouring chief; and had the prudence, or good luck, to solicit the protection of the conqueror, who confirmed

<sup>1</sup> The two dynasties of Gaur are spoken of occasionally by the Oriental historians under the title of the Afghan and Patan government of India; Afghan and Patan, as also Abdaly, and several others, being names applied to the whole or a part of the people who inhabit the chain of mountains from Herat to the mouths of the Indus.

**BOOK III.** him in the government of Multan, and added to it several  
**CHAP. III.** other important provinces.

1420. Khizer affected to decline the title of sovereign; pretending that he held the government of India only as deputy of the house of Timur, in whose name he ordered the coin to be struck, and the instruments of government to be expedited. By this expedient, we are told, he obviated the jealousies and competition of the Omrahs, many of whom would have regarded their claim to the throne as preferable to his own. Khizer governed with considerable abilities; and the people again tasted the fruits of peace and protection under his reign. He made but little progress in re-annexing the revolted provinces to the empire of Delhi. He reigned, however, from the farthest branch of the Indus to the extremity of the Doab: and from the Kashmere and Himalaya mountains to the latitude of Gualior.

After a reign of seven years and some months, his death transferred the government to Mubarik his son. Mubarik was early involved in a contest with the Gickers, who, under a leader of the name of Jisserit, continued to molest the Punjab and Lahore during the whole of his reign. The Hindu tribes in the hill-country of Mewat, to the south of Delhi; those also in the hill-country to the north of Budaoon or Rohilcund, gave him at various periods no little disturbance. A war was at one time kindled between him and the governor who had usurped the provinces lying eastward from Delhi, and was then known by the title of the King of the East. Coming however to a drawn battle, the two sovereigns were contented ever after to leave each other in peace. A rebellious slave, in the northern provinces, drew him into a contest with the Moguls of the empire of Samarcand; the rebel having invited the viceroy of Shahrokh, who resided at Kabul, to come to his assistance. The Moguls were defeated in battle and repelled. Mubarik, however, in consequence of a conspiracy, headed by the Vizir, was shortly after assassinated in the fourteenth year of a reign, during which he had displayed considerable talents for government, and more than usual attention to justice and humanity.

The Vizir placed Mohammed, a grandson of Mubarik upon the throne, expecting to govern the kingdom in his name, or in time to appropriate the shadow as well as the substance of command. But the Omrahs were disgusted with his

pretensions, and loved war; which enabled or com- BOOK III.  
pelled the king to rid himself by assassination of his CHAP. III.  
domineering minister. The Omrahs returned to obedience;  
and the king, after making a parade of his power in a  
progress through several of the provinces, returned to  
Delhi, and resigned himself to pleasure. The temper of the  
times was not such as to permit a negligent hand to hold the  
reins of government with impunity. The Omrahs in the  
distant governments began immediately to prepare for  
independence. Beloli Lodi,<sup>1</sup> the governor of Sirhind, a town  
on the Sutlej, or eastern branch of the Indus, made himself  
master of Lahore, of the greater part of the Punjab, and  
the country eastwards as far as Paniput, within a few leagues  
of Delhi. Beloli retired before the imperial army, but pre-  
served his own entire; and re-occupied the country as soon  
as the troops of Mohammed returned. Another Viceroy,  
who had become independent in Malwa, and assumed the  
title of its king, marched against the feeble sovereign of  
Delhi, who saw no hopes of safety, but in calling the rebel  
Beloli to his aid. An indecisive action was fought: and the  
monarchs of Delhi and Malwa, both suffering from their  
fears, made haste to quiet their minds by huddling up an  
adjustment; but Beloli attacked in its retreat the army of  
Malwa, which he plundered and deprived of its baggage.  
He was despatched by Mohammed against Jisserit, the  
Gicker chief, who still harassed the northern provinces. But  
Beloli made his own terms with the plunderer; and returned  
to besiege Delhi. It held out, however, so long, that for the  
present he abandoned the enterprise. Mohammed shortly  
after died, his power reduced to a shadow, after a reign of  
twelve years and some months.

In the same year, viz. 1446, died Shahrokh, son of Timur,  
and emperor of the Moguls. Upon his death, the vast  
empire of Timur, which had yet remained entire, underwent  
division. The eldest son of Shahrokh, the famous Ulug  
Beg, inherited the imperial titles, and the dominion of  
Western Tartary or Transoxiana. The eldest son of Basunker,  
another of the sons of Timur, possessed himself of Kho-  
rasan, Kandahar, and Kabul. The second son of Basunker  
held possession of the Western Persia. And Abul Kasem,

<sup>1</sup> The name is Bheilolc in Briggs.—W.

BOOK III. the third of Timur's sons, became sovereign of Georgia, and  
CHAP. III. Mazenderan.

<sup>1446.</sup> Alla, the son of Mohammed, mounted the throne of Delhi, honoured now with the obedience of little more than a few of the contiguous districts.<sup>1</sup> Alla showed no talents for government; and after a few years, being attacked by Beloli, resigned to him the throne, upon condition of receiving the government of Budaoon, where he lived and died in peace.

Beloli was an Afghan, of the tribe of Lodi, which subsisted chiefly by carrying on the traffic between Hindustan and Persia. Ibrahim, the grandfather of Beloli, a wealthy trader, repaired to the court of Feroze at Delhi; and acquired sufficient influence to be intrusted with the government of Multan. When Khizer succeeded to the same command, he made the son of Ibrahim master of his Afghan troops; and afterwards bestowed upon him the government of Sirhind. Beloli was not the son of the governor of Sirhind, but of another of the sons of Ibrahim. Beloli, upon the death of his father, repaired to his uncle at Sirhind, and so effectually cultivated his favour, that he received the hand of his daughter in marriage, and his recommendation to succeed him in his government. But Ibrahim left a brother Feroze, and a son Koottub, who disputed the pretensions of the son-in-law of the governor of Sirhind. Beloli was the most powerful and adroit, and of course the successful competitor. The rest, however, excited against him the Emperor of Delhi. His country was attacked and overrun. But Beloli kept his army together, and speedily recovered his territory, and the imperial troops were withdrawn. By activity, valour, and skill, something was daily added to the power of Beloli: by indolence, effeminacy, and folly, something was daily detached from the power of the sovereign

<sup>1</sup> Ferishta's enumeration of the independent principalities now existing, shows accurately the limits to which the monarchy of Delhi was reduced. "The Deccan, Guern, Malwa, Jonpoor, and Bengal, had each its independent king. The Panjab, Deoplpoor, and Sirhind, as far south as Paniput, formed the territory of Bhelole Khan Lody. Mehrowly and the country within seven cos (fourteen miles) of Delhi, was in the hands of Ahmad Khan Me-watif. Sumbhal, even to the suburbs of Delhi, was occupied by Durra Khan Lody. Kote-Jalesur, in the south, by Eesa Khan. Joorb, and Rubery and its dependencies, by Kowuch Khan Afghan. Kamplia and Pattaly, by Rajah Purtab Singh, and Byana, by Dawood Khan Lody." Briggs' Translation, i. 541. We may be sure, that the Hindus, in all directions, took advantage of this dismemberment of the Patan sovereignty, to assert their own independence, and to augment the anarchy that must have prevailed.—W.

ef Delhi : till Beloli was able to measure strength with him BOOK III. on more than equal terms, and finally to seat himself on CHAP. III. his throne.

The mother of Beloli was smothered, while pregnant, under the ruins of a falling house. Her husband, opening her body, saved the infant, afterwards emperor of Hindustan. It is related that when Beloli was yet a youth, in the service of his uncle, a famous Durvesh, whom he came to visit, suddenly cried out with enthusiasm, "Who will give two thousand rupees for the empire of Delhi?" Beloli had but one thousand six hundred rupees in the world. But he sent his servant immediately to bring them. The Durvesh, receiving the money, laid his hand upon the head of Beloli, and gave him salutation and blessing as the king of Delhi. Ridiculed by his companions as a dupe, Beloli replied, that if he obtained the crown it was cheaply purchased; if not, still the benediction of a holy man was not without its use.

Those Omrahs who regarded their own pretensions to the throne as not inferior to those of Beloli, were disaffected. A party of them joined Mahmood, who held the usurped sovereignty of Babar, and the country towards Orissa;<sup>1</sup> and was called king of Jonpoor, the city, at which he resided, on the banks of the Goomty, about forty miles from Benares. The victory which Beloli gained over their united forces established him firmly on his throne.

Beloli made a progress through his unsettled provinces confirming or removing these several governors, as he supposed them affected to his interests. He was not long suffered to remain in peace. Between him and the rival sovereign of Jonpoor, or the East, an undecisive war was carried on during the whole of his reign. The advantage, partly through force and partly through treachery, was, upon the whole, on the side of Beloli, who at last drove the king of the East from Jonpoor, and severed from his dominions the district to which it belonged. In his declining years Beloli divided the provinces of his empire among his sons, relations, and favourites ; and died at an advanced age, in the thirty-ninth year of his reign. He was a modest sovereign;

1480.

<sup>1</sup> Whence this is derived does not appear: it is not in Ferishta. The predecessor of Mahmood invaded Bengal, but it was only a predatory incursion. The kings of the East never had possession of any part of Orissa.—W.

**BOOK III.** and when reproved by his friends for showing so little of  
**CHAP. III.** the prince, "It was enough for him," he replied, "that the  
world knew he was king, without his making a vain parade  
of royalty."

The partition which Beloli made of his dominions had no tendency to prevent those disputes about the succession which are so frequent in the east; but neither, perhaps, did it augment them. A strong party of the Omrahs declared for Sekunder, one of the younger sons of Beloli; and after some struggle of no great importance, he was seated firmly on the throne. The usual measures were pursued for placing the provinces in a state of obedience: and Sekunder was stimulated to endeavour the restoration of some of the districts which for several reigns had affected independence on the throne of Delhi. The tranquillity, however, of an empire, which had been so long distracted, was not so easily preserved; and Sekunder was perpetually recalled from the frontiers of his kingdom, to anticipate or to quell insurrections within. He waged, notwithstanding, a successful war with the king of the East, who had been driven from Jonpoor by the father, and was now driven from Bahar by the son. But he found himself unequal to a war for the recovery of Bengal, to the confines of which he had once more extended the empire of Delhi; and that important province still remained in the hands of the usurper. Sekunder reigned, with the reputation of abilities, and of no inconsiderable virtue, for twenty-eight years and five months, and was succeeded by his son Ibrahim.

Ibrahim had personal courage, and was not altogether destitute of talents; but he was a violent, capricious, unthinking prince; and quickly lost the affections and respect of his subjects. One of his maxims was, "that kings had no relations; for that all men equally were the slaves of the monarch." This, though perfectly constitutional doctrine in the East, was a language which had now become unusual to the proud Omrahs of the falling throne of Delhi. Ibrahim was involved in an uninterrupted struggle with rebellion; against which, however, he maintained himself, during a space of twenty years. His empire was then invaded by Baber, a descendant of the great Timur, who in 1525, deprived him at once of his throne and of his life.

## CHAPTER IV.

*From the Commencement to the Close of the Mogul Dynasty.*

UPON the death of Shahrokh, the son of Timur, and the division of the dominions of that conqueror among his descendants, quarrels and war ensued ; the weakness and vice, which are the usual attendants upon long-inherited sovereignty, weakened the unsteady powers of Asiatic government ; and in a few years the great empire of Timur was in a state of dissolution. The Turks, who had penetrated into western Asia, and who, under Bajazet, received a dreadful overthrow by the arms of Timur, no sooner felt the weakness of government in the hands of his successors, than they pressed upon the nearest provinces, and at an early period were masters of Mesopotamia. Ismael was a disgraced servant of Jacob Beg, the eighth in the Turkish dynasty of the white sheep. Pursuing the career of a military adventurer, he collected around him a number of those daring characters, so numerous in the turbulent and unsettled countries of the East, whose business it is to seek a livelihood by their sword ; and after a period, spent in subordinate plunder, he conceived himself sufficiently strong to attack, in the year 1500, the governor or king (for he now affected independence) of the province of Shirvan. After the conquest of Shirvan, Ismael successively made himself master of Tauris, Media, Chaldea, Persia, and became the founder of the dynasty of the Sophis, who held the sceptre of Persia for a number of generations.

BOOK III. CHAP. IV.

1525.

On the eastern side of the Caspian, Shaïbek Khan, a chief of the Usbeks, or Tartars of Desht Kipchak, entered Transoxiana, at the head of his horde, in the year 1494. In the course of four years, he rendered himself master of all Transoxiana and Khorasan ; the last of which was, however, wrested from the Usbeks, by the arms of Ismael Sophi, in the year 1510.

Baber was the grandson of Abu Seid, the king of Zagan-tai ; and Abu Seid was the son of Mohammed, the grandson of Timur, through Miran Shah. The dominions of Abu Seid were at his death divided among his sons. Ali

**BOOK III.** became king of Kabul ; Ahmed, king of Samarcand ; **CHAP. IV.** <sup>1525</sup> Amer, king of Indijan and Fergana ;<sup>1</sup> and Mahmood, king of Kunduz and Budukshan. Baber was the son of Ahmer, king of Indijan and Fergana ; a district surrounded by mountains, lying between Samarcand and Kashgar. He succeeded his father, while yet very young, in the year 1493 ;<sup>2</sup> and was immediately involved in a war with his uncles, desirous to profit by his youth and inexperience. Baber maintained himself against them with varying fortune, sometimes reduced to the lowest ebb, at other times borne on a flowing tide ; till the arrival of Shaïbek,<sup>3</sup> the Tartar. Shaïbek, after a struggle which was strenuously supported by Baber, swept the posterity of Timur from Transoxiana and Khorasan. Baber was compelled to retire towards Kabul ; where the son of his uncle Ali had been dethroned by his Omrahs, and the greatest anarchy prevailed. The weak resistance opposed to Baber, in Kabul, he had means to overcome, and became master of that province in the year 1504. After spending some years in contending with the enemies who disputed with him the possession of Kabul, and resisted his efforts for obtaining Kandahar, he was fired with the hopes of recovering his paternal dominions, Ismael Sophi having defeated and slain his enemy, Shaïbek. In the year 1511, he marched towards Bokhara, of which, after some resistance, he made himself master. His next object was Samarcand, which surrendered upon his arrival. His ambition was to make this celebrated capital of the great founder of his house the place of his residence ; and he appointed Nasir, his brother, governor of Kabul. But he had not enjoyed, above nine months, this coveted throne, when the Usbeks, under the successor of Shaïbek,<sup>4</sup> returned from the desert ; and Baber, after an unavailing struggle, was forced back to Kabul.

Baber had not spent one year in re-establishing his au-

<sup>1</sup> A more accurate nomenclature, as well as a more precise account, is to be found in the introduction to the Memoirs of Baber, lvii. Ahmed was king of Samarkand ; Mahmud, of Hisar, Kunduz and Badakhshan ; Ulugh Beg, of Kabul and Ghizni ; and Omar Sheikh Mirza, father of Baber, king of Ferghana.—W.

<sup>2</sup> It should be 1494. Mem. of Baber.—W.

<sup>3</sup> By Ferishta, as translated by Dow, he is called Shafbani, II. 100.—M. And in Baber's Memoirs, Shablik or Shafbani.—W.

<sup>4</sup> His son, Mohammed Taimur Sultan.—W.

thority, in Kabul,<sup>1</sup> when information received of the weakness at Delhi inspired him with the hopes of indemnifying himself in the south for the possessions which he had been constrained to relinquish in the north. In the year 1519 he took possession of all the countries on the further side of the Blue River, one of the branches of the Indus. He overran a part of the Punjab, levying contributions; and after chastising the Gickers, who had molested him in his progress, he returned to Kabul. Before the end of the same year, he renewed his march into Hindustan, and intended to reduce Lahore; but was interrupted, by news from the northern side of the mountains which separate Bokhara from Kabul, that a district there, of which he still retained possession, had been invaded by the Tartars of Kashgar. The following year, the conqueror was recalled, after he had made some progress in the invasion of Hindustan, by intelligence that Kabul itself was assailed by the people of Kandahar. Baber resolved to complete the conquest of this neighbouring country, before he again led out his armies to regions more remote. The vigour of the king of Kandahar, who held out for three years, procured, thus long, a respite to the kings and omrahs of Hindustan; or rather afforded three additional years<sup>2</sup> for the exercise of their mutual hostilities, and the oppression of the wretched inhabitants. But in the year 1523, Kandahar being at last reduced, Baber rendered himself master of Lahore and the Punjab. The next year, beginning to feel the seducements of luxury and ease, he contented himself with directing his troops in Hindustan to march against Delhi. But they were attacked and overthrown.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An interval of three years elapsed, during which Baber was endeavouring to re-establish his authority in Kandahar. Mem. of Baber, 245.—W.

<sup>2</sup> This is a mistake, the period being confounded with that previous to Baber's first invasion of India. It was in his third invasion, in 1520, that Shah Beg of Kandahar laid siege to Kabul, and Baber returned to its succour. During the following year, he completed his preparations for retaliation, and finally reduced Kandahar to his authority in 1522. Mem. of Baber, 286.—W.

<sup>3</sup> This is not a correct representation of the events. Baber led his army into India in 1524, and was joined by several of the nobles of Delhi, with Alâ-ad-din, the brother of Ibrahim. Amongst others were Doulet Khan and his son, but they shortly deserted Baber, and raised an opposition in the Punjab, which rendered it advisable for him to fall back on Lahore, after having advanced to Sirhind. From Lahore he returned to Kabul, leaving Alâ-ad-din and several of his chiefs as his governors in the conquered provinces. They were almost immediately dislodged by Doulet Khan, and obliged to join Baber at Kabul. It was then that he sent a force into India, under the command of his officers and Alâ-ad-din, that the latter might be assisted

**BOOK III.** In 1525 Baber resolved to repair this misfortune by his  
**CHAP. IV.** presence. Ibrahim marched out to defend his capital with  
1530. an army as much inferior in bravery, as it was superior in  
 numbers. It was speedily routed, Ibrahim was slain in  
 battle, Baber entered Delhi, and mounting the throne of  
 the Afghans, or Patans, began the Mogul dynasty in Hind-  
 dustan.

Great efforts were still demanded for the reduction of the provinces, the Omrahs of which being Afghans, and expecting little favour under a Mogul monarch, held out and even formed themselves into an extensive and formidable confederacy, setting a son of the late Sekunder, as sovereign, at their head. Baber's principal officers, alarmed by the resistance which it seemed necessary to overcome, combined in offering him advice to return. The king, declaring that he would relinquish such a conquest only with his life, displayed so formidable a spirit of resolution and perseverance, that in a short time the confederacy began to dissolve. Many of the Omrahs, who were the weakest, or whose territories were the most exposed, came over to Baber, and entered into his service. At last a great battle was fought, which Baber with difficulty won, but which gave him so decided a superiority, that his enemies were no longer able to meet him in the field. Having reduced the provinces which latterly paid obedience to the throne of Delhi, he advanced against the Omrahs of the East, who for a length of time had affected independence. He had scarcely, however, conquered Bahar, when he fell sick and died, in the year 1530.

Humayoon succeeded to the throne of his father, but was not long suffered to enjoy it in peace. His brother Kamran, in the government of Kabul, formed a resolution of seizing upon the Punjab; and Humayoon was fain to confer upon him the government of all the country from the Indus to Persia, on condition of his holding it as a dependency. Mahmood, too, the son of the Emperor Sekunder, whom the confederated Omrahs had placed at their

to ascend the throne of Delhi; and his reason for not leading the army in person was, his being obliged to march to the relief of Balkh, which was besieged by the Uzbeks. Ali-ad-din was defeated, and again took refuge, though rather reluctantly, with Baber, as he advanced on his fifth and final invasion of Hindustan, in the cold season of 1525. *Mém. of Baber*, 295.—W.

head, was again joined by some chiefs, and kindled the BOOK III.  
 flames of war in the eastern provinces. A victory gained CHAP. IV.  
 by the Emperor extinguished all immediate danger in that  
 quarter. But Shir Khan, the regent of Bahar, refused to  
 give up the fortress of Chunar. A conspiracy was formed  
 in favour of Mohammed, a prince of the race of Timur;  
 and Bahadur, king of Guzerat, was excited to hostilities  
 by the protection Humayoon afforded to the Rana of Chi-  
 tore. Bahadur was unequal to his enterprise; the war  
 against him was pushed with activity and vigour, and he  
 lost entirely the kingdom of Guzerat. Humayoon was  
 now in favour with fortune; from Guzerat he marched to  
 the eastern provinces, and reduced Chunar. Having gained  
 the passes he then entered Bengal; the government of which  
 had recently been usurped, and its sovereign expelled by the  
 enterprising Shir. He took possession of Gour, then the  
 capital of the province; and there resided for several  
 months; but, his troops suffering from the humidity of  
 the climate, and his two brothers now aspiring openly to  
 his throne, he was compelled to proceed towards Agra,  
 which he and his father had made the seat of government.  
 In the meantime, Shir, though he had been defeated, was  
 not subdued. He made himself master of the strong for-  
 tress of Rotas, after he had been obliged to retire from  
 Gour; and he now threw himself in the way of Humayoon,  
 whose presence was urgently required in another part of  
 his empire.. Humayoon, threatened with detention, if  
 nothing worse, desired accommodation. After a negotia-  
 tion, it was agreed that the government of Bahar and Ben-  
 gal should be conferred upon Shir, on his paying a slight  
 tribute in acknowledgment of dependence. The chance of  
 finding the camp of the Emperor unguarded, under the  
 negligence inspired by the prospect of peace, was one  
 among the motives which led Shir to open the negociation.  
 The perfidy succeeded; and Humayoon, having lost his  
 army, was constrained to fly.

He repaired to Agra, and was joined by his brothers  
 whose united strength was no more than sufficient to de-  
 fend them against Shir the Afghan. But their conflicting  
 interests and passions defeated every scheme of co-opera-  
 tion. The army with which Humayoon marched out to  
 meet the assailant was overthrown; the capital no longer

BOOK III. afforded him a place of refuge; he fled from one place to  
 another, subject at times to the greatest hardships; and  
 was at last obliged to quit the kingdom, and seek an asylum  
 1596-54. in Persia, where he was hospitably and honourably enter-  
 tained.

The grandfather of Shir, the new sovereign of Hindus-  
 tan, came from the district of Roh<sup>1</sup> in the mountains of  
 Afghanistan, in quest of military employment, in the  
 reign of Beloli, and entered into the service of an Omrah  
 of the court. His son Hussun followed the Subahdar, who  
 acquired the title of King of the East; and rose to con-  
 siderable rank in his service. Ferid, the son of Hussun,  
 received the name of Shir, which signifies lion, from kil-  
 ling with his own hand, in the presence of the King or  
 Governor of Bahar, an enormous tiger which rushed from  
 a thicket. When this monarch died, and his son, a minor,  
 succeeded him, the government of Bahar rested chiefly in  
 the hand of Shir; and a short time elapsed, when the  
 young prince; having made his escape, left the name as  
 well as the power of sovereign to the usurper. He had  
 just accomplished the conquest of Bengal, when Humayoon,  
 returning from Guzerat, invaded his dominions.<sup>2</sup>

Immediately after his victory, Shir assumed the impe-  
 rial title of Shah, and exerted himself with great activity  
 in reducing the provinces to his obedience. His mandates

<sup>1</sup> This district which gave its name to the Rohillas, a people considerable in the history of British India, is said by Major Stewart, on his Persian authorities, to have been the original seat of the Afghans, whose mountainous country (Roh signifies a mountainous country; and Rohillas, mountaineers or highlanders) extended, according to the same authorities, in length, from Seward and Bijore to the town of Sui, in Bukharest, and in breadth, from Hussin to Rabul. Stewart's Bengal, p. 127.—M. There is some curious blundering, either by Stewart, or the authorities he has followed in these state-  
 m ents; and if the latter, it is extraordinary that he should have cited them without correction. What contiguity could Bakharest possibly have to any part of the Afghan country, and where are Hussin and Rabul? Ferishta furnishes a more accurate version. Roh extends in length, he says, from Swad and Bajour, to Sui, in the district of Bhukkur, and in breadth, from Husun Abdul to Kabul. According to him, Roh means mountain in the Afghan language, but no such term occurs in the list of Pushtu words collected by Mr. Elphinstone, nor in a Pushtu vocabulary, compiled by Mohabbet Khan, of which a MS. is in the library of the E. I. C.; Roh is there explained to be the name of an extensive country, intermediate between Iran and Taran; bounded on the north by Kashkar, on the south by Baluchistan, on the west by Herat, and Kashmir on the east; being, in fact, the country of the Afghans. It may be doubted if this description is very accurate. Roh seems to offer traces of the older appellation of a district of more limited extent, or Arachosia. A town called Roh-knj is noticed by Ibn Hakil, not far from Ghizni.—W.

<sup>2</sup> What relates to Bengal, in these transactions, is extracted minutely by Mr. Stewart, (Hist. of Bengal, sect. 5.)

ran from the farthest branch of the Indus, to the Bay of BOOK III.  
 Bengal ; a more extensive dominion than for some ages CHAP. IV.  
 had belonged to any sovereign of Hindustan. Besieging  
 one of the strongly situated forts, which abound in India,  
 he was killed by an accidental explosion of gunpowder,  
 when he had reigned five years in Hindustan. What can  
 be said of few sovereigns, even in still more enlightened  
 ages, he left various monuments of public beneficence to  
 prolong the memory, and the love, of his short administra-  
 tion. He built caravanseras at every stage, from the Nilab,  
 or farthest branch of the Indus, to the shores of Bengal ;  
 he dug a well for the refreshment of the traveller at every  
 two miles ; he ordered that all travellers, without distinc-  
 tion of country or religion, should at every stage be enter-  
 tained, according to their quality, at the public expense ;  
 he had trees planted along the roads to shelter the tra-  
 vellers against the violence of the sun ; he established  
 post-horses, the first in India, for the more rapid convey-  
 ing of intelligence to government,<sup>1</sup> and for the accommo-  
 dation of trade and correspondence ; even the religious  
 comfort of the traveller was not neglected ; a number of  
 magnificent mosques were erected along the road, and  
 priests appointed for the performance of devotional ser-  
 vices.

Shir left two sons, of whom the youngest, being with  
 the army, was proclaimed king. A struggle, as usual, en-  
 sued, for the possession of the throne ; a feigned accom-  
 modation was made up between the brothers ; war again  
 quickly broke out ; the eldest lost a battle, from which he  
 fled, and disappearing, was never heard of more. The  
 youngest remained emperor, by the name of Selim. The  
 Omrahs, however, or Subahdars of the provinces, who  
 never neglected an opportunity that promised a chance of  
 independence, rebelled in several quarters. In some in-  
 stances they were not without difficulty subdued. After  
 several years spent in reducing his dominions to order and  
 obedience, Selim was roused from his dreams of future  
 tranquillity, by intelligence that the exiled emperor Hu-  
 mayoon was on his way from Persia with an army for the

<sup>1</sup> This is a stage of civilisation to which the Hindus had not arrived.—M. It is one to which British India has not attained. There are obstacles to this ar-  
 rangement which it is difficult to surmount.—W.

**BOOK III.** recovery of Hindustan. Selim prepared for action with *char. iv.* vigour. But Humayoon, instead of advancing, retired. — Selim, shortly after, was seized with a violent distemper ; 1536-37. and died suddenly, in the tenth year of his reign.

He lost a son to succeed him, but only twelve years of ago. There was a nephew to the late Emperor Shir, by name Mubarik, whose sister was mother of the young prince. Mubarik assassinated the boy in the arms of his mother, three days after he had been proclaimed as king.

Mohammed was the name which Mubarik thought proper to use upon the throne. Vice, profusion, and folly, the attributes of his character and administration, lost him speedily the respect of his people, and the obedience of his Omrahs. His brother Ibrahim raised an army, from which Mohammed fled to the eastern provinces, leaving Ibrahim to assume the style of royalty at Delhi. This was not all. Ahmed, another nephew of the Emperor Shir, laid claim to the sovereignty in the Punjab, assumed the name of Sekunder Shah, and marched towards Agra. Ibrahim met him, and was defeated. Ibrahim was attacked on the other side, by the vizir of Mohammed, and after several turns of fortune, fled to Orissa. Sekunder took possession of Agra and Delhi, while Mohammed was engaged in a war with the governor of Bengal ; in which at first he was prosperous, but finally stript of his dominions and life.

In the meantime, Sekunder was summoned to oppose the exiled emperor Humayoon, who had now a second time returned for the recovery of his throne.

When Humayoon made his escape into Persia, Tamasp, the son of Ismael, second of the Sophis, ruled from beyond the Euphrates, to the farthest boundary of Transoxiana. The governor of the province, which first afforded shelter to Humayoon, received him with distinction ; and he was conveyed, with the respect which seemed due to his rank and misfortunes, to the Presence at Ispahan. He was treated by Tamasp as a sovereign ; and his misfortunes excited the compassion of a favourite sister of the king, and of several of his councillors. At their instigation an army of ten thousand horse was intrusted to Humayoon ; with which he advanced towards

Kandahar, still governed, together with Kabul, by one of his rebellious brothers. After an obstinate resistance, the city of Kandahar fell into his hands, and the rest of the province submitted. Jealousy and dissatisfaction soon sprung up between him and the Persian commanders. But various Omrahs of the country now joined him with their troops ; and, marching to Kabul, he was joined by the second of his rebellious brothers, and several other chiefs. Kabul was in no situation to resist ; and his hostile brother fled to Bukker, a wild and desert province towards the mouth of the Indus, governed by a relation. When Kabul was subdued, Humayoon crossed the mountains to the north, for the purpose of reducing Budukshan, that district of the Mogul kingdom of Transoxiana which had remained united to the dominions of Baber. In the meantime his brother returned from Bukker, and in the absence of Humayoon and his army, obtained possession of Kabul. Humayoon hastened from Budukshan, gave battle to his brother's army, routed it, and laid siege to Kabul. His brother seeing no hopes of success, fled from the city by night, and made his way to Balkh, where he received assistance from the governor, marched against Humayoon's new conquest of Budukshan, and expelled his governor. Humayoon left him not to enjoy his acquisition in peace : he marched against him, and forcing him to submit, treated him with lenity and respect. Humayoon next involved himself in hostilities with the Usbekhs of Balkh, over whom at first he gained advantages, but at last was routed, and obliged to retreat to Kabul. In this retreat he was deserted by his perfidious brother, whom he had recently spared. Some of the chiefs of his army wrote to that deserter, that if he could attack the army of Humayoon, they would betray him in the action. Humayoon was accordingly defeated ; and obliged to fly towards Budukshan, leaving Kabul a third time to his foe. Being joined, however, by the second of his brothers, who now repaid, by great services, his former demerits ; and by several other chiefs ; he was speedily in a condition to march again to Kabul with a force which his brother was by no means able to withstand. After some resistance, the brother was obliged to fly ; and though he continued

BOOK III.  
CHAP. IV.

1586-54.

**BOOK III.** war was held, in which Byram advised to march against  
**CHAP. IV.** the enemy. The principal part of the Omrahs, as the  


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 1557-60. hostile army amounted to 100,000 horse, that of the king  
 to scarcely 20,000, held it advisable to retreat. But the  
 young Shah supported the opinion of Byram with so much  
 ardour, that he kindled the enthusiasm of the Omrahs,  
 who declared their resolution to devote their lives and  
 fortunes to his service.

While the army was on its march, the governor of Delhi, he by whom the city had just been surrendered, joined the king. Waiting for a time when the presence of the prince offered no interruption, Byram called this governor into his tent, and beheaded him. It was to anticipate, he told the king, the clemency of the royal mind, that he had taken upon him, without consultation, to make this example; necessary to let the neglectful Omrahs know, that want of vigour was hardly less criminal than want of loyalty; and that, as meritorious services would be amply rewarded, so no failure in duty should pass with impunity. The prince, whatever were his thoughts, thanked the regent for the care he bestowed upon his person and government.

The brave Himu made the necessary dispositions for encountering the imperial army. The contending parties arrived in presence of one another in the neighbourhood of Paniput. The Moguls, who had been reinforced on the march, fought with great constancy, and the enemy were thrown into disorder. Himu advanced, conspicuous on a towering elephant, and endeavoured by his example to reanimate his troops. He was shot with an arrow through the eye; and his followers, believing him killed, endeavoured to save themselves by retreat. Himu drew the eye out of the socket with the arrow; and continued the fight with unabated constancy. But the driver of his elephant seeing a mortal blow aimed at himself, offered to direct the animal wherever he should be desired.<sup>1</sup> Upon this, Himu was surrounded and taken.

When the battle ended, he was brought into the pre-

<sup>1</sup> This is indistinct: Ferishta's account is, Shah Koolly Khan, (one of Akbar's officers,) levelled his lance at the driver, who, in order to save his own life, pointed it to his master, and promised Shah Koolly Khan, to guide the elephant wherever he directed: he accordingly, it would seem, drove the animal amongst a body of Akbar's horse.—W.

sence of Akbar, almost expiring with his wounds. Byram, BOOK III.  
addressing the king, told him it would be a meritorious CHAP. IV.  
action to kill that dangerous infidel with his own hands.  
Akbar, in compliance with the advice of his minister,  
drew his sword, but only touching with it gently the head  
of his gallant captive, burst into tears. This movement  
of generous compassion was answered by the minister  
with a look of stern disapprobation ; and with one blow  
of his sabre he struck the head of the prisoner to the  
ground.

1557-60.

This important victory restored tranquillity to the principal part of Akbar's dominions. It is true, that in the same year the invasion of a Persian army, under the nephew of Tamasp, rendered that prince for a time master of Kundahar. And the late pretended emperor Sekunder advanced into the western provinces, and made the governor fly to Lahore. But the imperial standards were carried with expedition towards the Indus ; Sekunder was cooped up in a fort ; when, offering to surrender the place and all his pretensions, he was permitted to retire into Bengal, and Akbar returned to Lahore.

The overbearing pretensions of an imperious, though useful servant, and the spirit of a high-minded, though generous sovereign, could not long be reconciled. Mutual jealousies and discontents arose ; the minister used his power with cruelty to deliver himself from those who stood in his way ; he increased, by that means, the disgust of his master ; yet he contrived for a time to preserve himself in power, by occupying the mind of the king with military preparation and action. An expedition, which ended successfully, was planned against Gualior, at that time a place of the highest importance. In the same year, one of Akbar's generals subdued all the country about Jonpoor and Bonares, hitherto retained by the Omrahs who had derived their power from the gift or the weakness of the late princes of the Afghan or Patan dynasty. Operations were commenced against Malwa, possessed by another of those Omrahs. But all this business and success served only to retard, not prevent, the fall of the minister. When the royal ear was found open to accusations against the harsh and domineering Byram, courtiers were not wanting to fill it. He was secretly

**BOOK III.** charged with designs hostile to the person and government of the Shah ; and the mind of Akbar, though firm,

**CHAP. IV.** was not unmoved by imputations against the man he disliked,

**1560.** however destitute of facts to support them. After some irresolution and apprehension, a proclamation was issued to announce that Akbar had taken upon himself the government ; and that henceforth no mandates but his were to be obeyed. Byram, who had shown so much resolution when serving his master, was full of indecision when called upon to act for himself. The sovereign advised him to make a voyage to Mecca. At one time Byram proceeded to obey ; at another time he resolved to render himself independent in some of the provinces which Akbar had not yet subdued ; and at another time conceived the design of seizing and governing the Punjab itself. He attempted arms, but met with no support ; and, driven to his last resource, implored the clemency of his master. Akbar hastened to assure him of forgiveness, and invited him to his presence. When the unfortunate Byram presented himself with all the marks of humiliation, and bursting into tears, threw himself on his face at the foot of the throne, Akbar lifted him up with his own hand, and setting him in his former place at the head of the Omrahs, " If the noble Byram," said he, " loves a military life, he shall obtain the government of a province in which his glory may appear ; if he chooses rather to remain at court, the benefactor of our family shall be distinguished by our favours ; but should devotion engage the soul of Byram to make a voyage to the holy city, he shall be provided and escorted in a manner suitable to his dignity." Byram, desiring leave to repair to Mecca, received a splendid retinue and allowance ; but in his passage through Guzerat, an Afghan chief, whose father he had formerly slain in battle, pretending salutation, stabbed him with a dagger, and killed him on the spot.

In the year 1560, a son of the late Shah Mohammed, who had found means to raise 40,000 horse, advanced with a design to recover the province of Jonpoor. The generals of Akbar, who had the province in charge, vanquished him with the forces under their command. Presuming, however, on their services or strength, they delayed re-witting the plunder. Akbar went towards them without a blow.

a moment's delay ; upon which they made haste to meet him with the spoils. He accepted their obedience ; praised their valour ; and bestowed on them magnificent gifts. This is a specimen of the behaviour of Akbar to his Omrahs. Their proneness to seize every opportunity of disobedience he restrained by prompt and vigorous interference ; seldom punished their backwardness ; but always bestowed on their services honour and renown.

BOOK III.

CHAP. IV.

1560-80.

Hussun, the governor of Ajmere, made some progress in subduing several forts in that hilly country, yet held by Hindu Rajas. The general, sent to reduce Malwa, had carried on the war in that province with so much success as to drive the pretended king out of his dominions. He fled, however, to the sovereigns of Kandesh and Berar ; from whom he received such effectual support as to be able to defeat the army of the imperial general, which he pursued to the vicinity of Agra. Akbar gave commission to Abdallah, the Usbek, governor of Kalpy, a city and province on the Jumna, to prosecute the war ; and by him was Malwa annexed to the Mogul dominions. About the same time the Gickers, those restless tribes of Hindus, who so often from their mountains disturbed the obedience of the upper provinces, were united under a warlike chief, and assumed the appearance of a formidable enemy. They were attacked with the usual vigour of Akbar's government ; and compelled to receive, though of their own nation, a sovereign named for them by the Moguls.

Notwithstanding the virtues of Akbar's administration, the spirit of rebellion, inherent in the principles of Indian despotism, left him hardly a moment's tranquillity, during the whole course of a long and prosperous reign. Hussun revolted in Ajmere, and gained a victory over the imperial troops who were sent to oppose him. Hakim, brother of Akbar, a weak man, the governor of Kabul, began to act as an independent prince. A slave of his, approaching the king while marching with his troops, let fly an arrow which wounded him in the shoulder. Abdalla, the Usbek, master of Malwa, believed himself so strong, and the king pressed by rebellion in various quarters, so weak, that he might erect a throne for himself. He contrived artfully to spread a rumour, that the Shah had contracted a general hatred of the Usbecks in his service, and intended their destruction.

## HISTORY OF BRITISH INDIA.

BOOK III. This gained over Sekunder and Ibrahim, the governors of  
CHAP. IV. two of the eastern provinces. Asaph, who held the govern-  

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1560-80. ment of Korah, had obtained great wealth by subduing  
and plundering a rajaship or Hindu kingdom, between  
Borar and Bengal, which till this time had escaped the  
ravage of a Mohammedan conqueror.<sup>1</sup> Not wishing to part  
with any of this wealth and influence, he joined with the  
rebels, in hopes of being able to defy the imperial power.  
Even Zemaun, the captain-general of the empire, and his  
brother Bahadur, two chiefs of great power and renown,  
joined the enemies of Akbar, and hoped to raise themselves  
on the ruins of the king.

Akbar, whom neither exertion nor danger dismayed, op-  
posed himself to his enemies with an activity, which often  
repaired the deficiencies of prudence. It would be tedious  
to follow minutely a series of expeditions, so much the  
same, to subdue one rebellious chieftain after another.  
Akbar had made considerable progress in reducing the  
eastern provinces to obedience, when he learned that  
Hakim, governor of Kabul,<sup>2</sup> in hopes of advantage from his  
absence, had advanced towards Lahore. The tranquillity  
of the northern provinces, whose inhabitants were hardy  
and warlike, was always regarded by Akbar as worthy of  
more watchful solicitude than that of the east, where the  
people were effeminate and more easily subdued. Leaving  
therefore the reduction of the Usbek rebels still incom-  
plete, he hastened towards Lahore; and surprising his  
brother by the celerity of his appearance, he rendered op-  
position hopeless, and crushed the rebellion in its bud.  
In the mean time, the Usbecks increased their army, and  
extended their conquests. The expeditious movements of  
Akbar left them little time to enjoy their advantages.

<sup>1</sup> This is a very ungallant mode of passing over an instance of female heroism highly celebrated in the Hindu annals. The district in question was Gurra, or Gurrah Mandela, then under the regency of a queen-mother, Durganti, or Durgavati. Upon the incursion of the Mohammedans, she led her forces in person against the invaders; a sanguinary conflict ensued, the event of which was long doubtful, until the queen, who was mounted on an elephant, was disabled by a wound from an arrow in her eye. Her troops then gave way, and fearing to fall into the hands of the victors, Durgavati snatched a dagger from the girdle of the elephant-driver, and stabbed herself. The story is told by Ferishta, and is confirmed by an inscription found at Gurra Mandala, and translated by Captain Fell. As. Res. xv. 427.—W.

<sup>2</sup> It was Akbar's brother Mohammed Hukeem Mirza, who had been driven out of Kabul by Soliman Mirza, and who endeavoured to obtain unauthorised pos-  
session of Lahore, as an equivalent.—W.

Having returned with a recruited army, he came to an action with the combined forces of the insurgents, and gained a great victory, which effectually quashed the rebellion in the east. BOOK III.  
CHAP. IV.  
1560-80.

The unsettled state of the province of Malwa soon required the royal presence. Among other measures for the secure possession of that important district, he advanced to the attack of Chitore,<sup>1</sup> a fort of great natural strength, situated in a mountainous and difficult part of the province, inhabited by Hindus, who had been frequently subdued, by the more powerful of the Mohammedan princes, but had as often revolted when the reins of government were held by a feeble hand. After an obstinate resistance, Chitore was taken. Rantampore, in the Arrabarree hills, in the province of Ajmere, was also a hill-fort, of great strength, which had often been taken from the Hindus, and as often recovered. Having reduced Rantampore, as well as Callinger, another stronghold of similar description and importance, in the same range of mountains,<sup>2</sup> he directed his attention to Guzerat.

This was one of the provinces the governor of which, during the decline of the Patan or Afghan dynasty, had assumed independence ; and it had been governed as a separate kingdom for a number of years. After a time it had fallen into the same confusion, which seems the common fate of Asiatic sovereignties whether great or small. The Omrahs became too powerful for the sovereign ; the different districts or governments assumed independence ; and the royal power was reduced to a shadow. In this situation the province offered but little resistance to Akbar ; the different leaders, who felt their inferiority, courted favour by hastening submission. Hussun, in Ajmere, was able to take the field with an army ; but as the king was now at leisure to push the war against him, he was driven from the province, and, with the remains of his army, fled to the Punjab. Attacked by a warlike tribe of the inhabitants, he was there taken prisoner, delivered up to the governor of Multan, and by him put to death. No sooner

<sup>1</sup> The particulars of this capture are narrated by Tod. *Annals of Mewar*, i. 325.—W.

<sup>2</sup> There is no range of mountains in this part of India. Callinger, and some other elevations of a like character, are detached hills springing abruptly from a plain.—W.

BOOK III. had the king turned his back on Guzerat, than some of the  
 CHAP. IV. turbulent chiefs began to assemble armies, and prepare the  
 1580. means of resistance. The rainy season was now commenced,  
 when the great army was unable to move ; but Akbar, re-  
 collecting a small body of cavalry, pursued his way with the  
 utmost expedition to Guzerat, surprised the rebels in the  
 midst of their preparations ; offered them battle notwithstanding  
 the inferiority of his force, and, contrary to all  
 prudential calculation, gained a victory, which established  
 his authority in Guzerat.

The province of Bengal paid a nominal submission to the throne of Delhi, but during several reigns had been virtually independent. After the other provinces of the empire were reduced to more substantial obedience, it was not likely that grounds of quarrel would long fail to be laid between Akbar and the King of Bengal. The governor or Subahdar of Oude being ordered, as contiguous, to begin operations against him, had gained some important advantages, and was besieging Patna, when he was joined by the Shah. The Bengal chief, seeing no chance of success, offered terms of accommodation. Akbar consented to engage for his life, but demanded that every thing else should be left to his clemency ; to spare, however, the blood of their subjects, he offered to decide their disputes by personal combat. In the following night the Bengal chief went secretly down the river in a boat, and his troops immediately evacuated the city. Akbar returned to Agra ; and the governor of Oude, to whose jurisdiction Patna was annexed, was ordered to complete the reduction of Bengal. The vanquished sovereign was allowed to retain Orissa. But, unfortunately for him, the Zemindars of Bengal still adhered to his interests, and speedily assembled a considerable army for his restoration. Having put himself at the head of this armament, he was taken prisoner, and, in the absence of Akbar, put to death in cold blood, upon the field.

For a short space, Akbar now enjoyed tranquillity and obedience throughout his extensive empire ; and wisely made use of the interval to visit and inspect its several provinces. Soon was he recalled to his former troubles and exertions. The recently subdued Bengal furnished a variety of discontented spirits, who again appeared in

arms ; and his brother, in Kabul, marched against Lahore. BOOK III.  
 Akbar never allowed disobedience in the upper provinces  
 to gain strength by duration. He hastened to Lahore,  
 overcame his brother, followed him close to Kabul, and re-  
 ceived a message from the vanquished prince, imploring  
 forgiveness. Akbar, with his usual generosity, which was  
 often inconsiderate, and cost him dear, replaced him in his  
 government.

CHAP. IV.

1598.

The peace of Bengal was in the mean time restored ;  
 but a formidable rebellion broke out in Guzerat, which the  
 son of Byram, the late regent, was sent to subdue. He  
 was opposed with great obstinacy ; and some power.  
 But being a man of talents, he restored the province in  
 a little time to obedience, and was rewarded with its go-  
 vernment.

The governor of Kabul, the king's brother, died. The  
 state of the upper provinces seemed upon that occasion to  
 require the presence of Akbar, and he marched towards  
 the Punjab. Here he projected the conquest of Kashmire,  
 and despatched an army for that purpose. The season  
 being ill-chosen and provisions failing, that army found  
 itself unequal to the enterprise. Akbar, however, was not  
 willing to be foiled : he despatched a second army ; and  
 the conquest was made with little opposition. Soon after  
 this, the Governor of Kandahar, a province which hitherto  
 had paid but a nominal submission to the Mogul throne,  
 unable to defend himself against his rebellious brothers,  
 and the Usbekhs, who had now rendered themselves masters  
 of Transoxiana and Bactria, and were formidable neigh-  
 bours to the northern provinces of Hindustan, offered to  
 deliver up his government to Akbar ; and received that of  
 Multan in exchange.

Akbar, who now beheld himself master, from the moun-  
 tains of Persia, and Tartary, to the confines of the Deccan,  
 began to cast the eyes of ambition on that contiguous land.  
 He gave directions to his governors, in the provinces near-  
 est the Deccan, to prepare as numerous armies as possible ;  
 and to omit no opportunity of extending the empire. He  
 despatched ambassadors to the kingdoms of the Deccan,  
 more with a design to collect information, than to settle  
 disputes. And at last a great army, under Mirza,<sup>1</sup> the son

<sup>1</sup> Mirza was his title ; his name was Abdool Ruheem, but he was commonly called Mirza Khan : he was also entitled Khan-khanan.—W.

BOOK III. consequences of unprovoked aggression, and unprincipled  
CHAP. IV. history.

1593. We have already observed the circumstances which preceded the first establishment of a Mohammedan empire in the Deccan, and it will now be necessary to recount shortly the events which intervened from the death of Alla Bhamanee, in the year 1357, to the invasion of Akbar in 1593.<sup>1</sup> Alla was succeeded by his son Mohammed, who reigned seventeen years, and carried on successful wars against the Rajas of Telingana and Beejanuggur,<sup>2</sup> a city on the Tummedra or Toombuddra, the most southern branch of the Kistna or Krishna, and at that time the capital of a considerable kingdom.<sup>3</sup> He stript these sovereigns of part of their dominions, and rendered them tributary for the rest. A circumstance is recorded by the historian, which indicates but a thin population in that part of India. The number of lives which were destroyed by his wars was computed at near 500,000, among whom was the natural proportion of both sexes, and of all ages; for Indian wars spare neither sex nor age: And by this loss, the regions of the Carnatic, says the historian, were so laid waste, that they did not recover their natural population for several kerruns, or revolutions of ten years: yet they had never before been more than slightly overrun by a foreign invader; and the virtues or vices of Hindu policy were here to be traced in their natural effects.<sup>4</sup> Mujahid, the son of

<sup>1</sup> For the succeeding sketch of the history of the Mohammedan sovereigns in the Deccan, Ferishta's History of the Deccan, translated by Captain Jonathan Scott, and Wilks's Historical Sketches of the South of India, have been the principal guides.

<sup>2</sup> Called Bijnagar, in the common maps, and Vijeyanuggur by Col. Wilks. Bijnuggur was but a modern power, in the South of India, and had risen upon the ruins of the Rajaship of Warunkul. Historical Sketches, by Col. Wilks, ch. i.

<sup>3</sup> Col. Wilks thinks that the whole of the South of India, (i.e. India to the south of the Kistna,) had for a considerable space of time been comprised in the empire of Vijeyanuggur. Ibid. p. 20. After the ruin of the Rajaship of Warunkul, when was the time for such an aggrandisement?

<sup>4</sup> The premises are not of a character to warrant this conclusion. It is not true of 'Indian' wars, whether Mohammedan or Hindu, that they "spare neither age nor sex;" and, if the number be correctly stated, it consists for the most part of adult males, killed in battle, or in the sack of cities. It is not very likely, however, that the number is statistically precise, nor can the facts be admitted without further scrutiny; for, either the dates or names are irreconcileable with the authentic records of the Bijnagar kings as preserved in inscriptions. Cat. Mackenzie Collection, Introd. 139, and As. Res. vol. xx. p. 1. If at all correct, the injury to the country, however, and consequent depopulation, was not the result only of the numbers slain, but

THE MOGUL DYNASTY.

Mohammed, was assassinated by his uncle after reign. His three years. The murderer, Daoood, placed himself on the throne, but lost his own life by assassination, after a month and five days. Of Alla, the first of the Bahmanee sovereigns, the youngest son was still alive, and had passed his life in confinement during the intermediate reigns. By the intrigues of the Haram, he was now acknowledged as King, and spent a mild and prudent reign of nineteen years, in almost uninterrupted tranquillity. His eldest son Gheause succeeded him; but, having affronted one of his Turkish Omrahs, who disguised his resentment the more effectually to secure his revenge, he lost his throne and his eyes, after a reign of little more than a month; and his brother Shums was made to possess it in his stead.

Shums was but fifteen years of age : and was a passive instrument in the hands of the Turk. Of Daood, however, the usurper, who had enjoyed royalty a month, several sons remained, who, under the odium attending the present state of the government, conceived hopes of profiting by the usurpation of their father. By an alternation of force and artifice, they secured the persons of the king and his minister, after a reign of only five months and seven days, and one of the brothers, by name Firoze, took possession of the throne. He reigned upwards of five and twenty years ; and is the most celebrated of all the sovereigns of the Deccan. He was engaged in a variety of wars with the Hindu Rajas ; but his acquisitions in point of territory were in-

of the ravages committed; the effects of which must necessarily have been for some time visible; or, rather, similar effects might have been perpetrated by similar causes; as, up to the time the last mentioned, about fifteen years, the interval had been one of continual struggle with the Marathas. The desolate condition which Ferishta notices, must, however, have been the work of much more recent occurrences; Bijnagar having been founded in the intermediate years before, by the combined arms of the two dynasties, and the capital had been destroyed and the country laid waste. The statement of Ferishta applies to this season, if to any, and that is probably at a period anterior to the whole intermediate time: we have an account of the state of Bijnagar, ninety years before his time, in the *Itinerarium Sacrae Scripturae*, then from whatever blows it had suffered it had recovered. It was well known to early European travellers, as the *City of Veer*, until about the beginning of the sixteenth century. *Itinerarium Sacrae Scripturae*, 1570, and he describes it as a city of considerable extent and of a large populous though declining monarchy. The king and queen, with their family, and a numerous body of foot. *Itinerarium Sacrae Scripturae*, 1570, p. 26, 1571, p. xx, p. 3. There is no reason, therefore, to doubt the truth of the assertions of the Mohammedan writers, that the decline of the population, as the consequence of a Mohammedan conquest, was the principal cause of the fall of the kingdom.—W.

**BOOK III.** of considerable. His endeavours to secure the succession to  
**CHAP. IV.** of his son, by the destruction of a brother of his own, whose  
1598. power and talents excited his fears, involved the last months  
 of his reign in trouble. But finding his efforts ineffectual  
 he submitted to necessity, and appointing his brother suc-  
 cessor, died in a few days.

The new sovereign, Ahmed, was a man of talents ; go-  
 verned with moderation and prudence ; and enjoyed a  
 prosperous reign of twelve years and two months. He  
 overthrew the Raja of Warunkul, and added the city of  
 Telingana to his dominions. The governors who, during  
 the decline of the Afghan or Patan dynasty of Delhi, had  
 assumed independence in the provinces of Malwa, Kandesh,  
 and Guzerat, were now sovereigns, whose contiguity failed  
 not to produce occasions of discord. At different times  
 Ahmed was engaged in war with all those princes, but  
 without any memorable result. He enlarged and beautified  
 the city of Beder, which he called Ahmedabad, and re-  
 moved to it the seat of government from Kalburga.  
 Toward the conclusion of his reign he projected a partition  
 of his kingdom among his sons. His acquisitions in Berar,  
 with some contiguous districts, he assigned to Mahmood ;  
 he gave Telingana to Daood ; and sent these princes to  
 take possession of their shares. His two remaining sons  
 Alla and Mohammed were destined to succeed him as col-  
 leagues on the throne of Koolburga.

They ascended the throne without opposition ; but Mo-  
 hammed, dissatisfied with the share of power which his  
 brother allowed him, was soon excited to rebel. He was  
 defeated, and treated with generosity by Alla. Their bro-  
 ther Daood having just died in Telingana, Mohammed was  
 appointed governor of that kingdom, where he devoted  
 himself to his pleasures, and lived in peace. Alla was at  
 various times attacked, by the Raja of Beejanuggur in the  
 south, and the kings of Guzerat, Kandesh, and Malwa, in  
 the north ; but defended himself with success. He sent  
 an army to invade Malabar, which at first gained advan-  
 tages, but being artfully drawn into a difficult recess of  
 that mountainous and woody country, was almost totally  
 destroyed. After a reign of nearly twenty-four years, he  
 was succeeded by his son Humayoon, who meeting with  
 opposition and rebellion, gave reins to the ferocity of a

violent mind ; but died, or was assassinated, it is uncertain BOOK III.  
 which, after a reign of a little more than three years. His CHAP. IV.  
 eldest son, Nizam, was only eight years of age at his accession ; but the reins of government were directed by the queen-mother, a woman of talents, and though the surrounding sovereigns endeavoured to avail themselves of the weakness of a minority, and the king of Malwa penetrated to the very capital, he was repulsed, and the Bahmanee empire remained entire. Nizam died in little more than two years after his father, when the crown devolved upon his second brother Mohammed, who was then in his, ninth year. The abilities of the queen-mother, and of a faithful minister, conducted the state in safety through the difficulties and dangers of a second minority ; and Mohammed, displaying, when he grew up, considerable talents for government, enjoyed prosperity for a number of years ; took part of Orissa, and the island of Goa ; and thus extended his dominion from sea to sea. At last, however, the jealous rivals of the minister forged an accusation, which they presented to the king at an artful moment, and surprised him into a sudden order for his destruction. Mohammed soon discovered, and soon repented, his fatal mistake. The ambitious Omrahs, whom the vigilance and talents of the minister had restrained began immediately to encroach on the royal authority. Mohammed died within a year of the execution of his minister, having languished both in mind and body, from the day of that unfortunate and criminal act.

His son Mahmood ascended the throne of the Deccan in the twelfth year of his age. The contentions of the Omrahs now filled the state with disorder. The sovereign himself displayed no talents for government, and was a slave to his indolence and pleasures. After plotting and struggling for several years, four of the great Omrahs declared themselves independent of their several governments ; and a fifth, who remained at the court, reduced the power of the sovereign to a shadow, and ruled in his name. Mahmood's nominal sovereignty lasted for thirty-seven years ; during which the Deccanee empire was divided into five several kingdoms ; that of Beejapore or Visiapore, founded by Esuff Adil Khan ; that of Ahmednugger, founded by Ahmed Nizam Behoreo ; that of Berar

BOOK III. founded by Ummad al Mulk; that of Golconda, founded  
 CHAP. IV. by Koottub al Mulk; their respective governors; and that  
 of Ahmedabad Beder, founded by Ameer Bereed, who  
 1693. rendered himself master of the person and throne of his  
 master, and retained the provinces which had not been  
 grasped by the other usurpers. This revolution, after being  
 several years in progress, was consummated about the year  
 1526. These sovereigns were engaged in almost perpetual  
 wars with one another, with the Raja of Beejanuggur, and  
 with the Sultan of Guzerat, who was so powerful as to hold  
 in a species of subjection the Sultans of both Malwa and  
 Kandesh. A temporary union of the Shabs of Beejapore,  
 Golconda, and Ahmednuggur, in 1564, enabled them to  
 subvert the empire of Beejanuggur, and reduce the power  
 of its chief to that of a petty Raja. The kingdom of Be-  
 der, which had fallen to the share of Ameer Bereed, was  
 conquered during the reign of his grandson; and its ter-  
 ritories, which were not large, were divided among the other  
 usurpers of the Bahmenee dominions. A similar fate  
 awaited the portion of Ummad, which consisted of the  
 southern part of Berar; it subsisted as a kingdom only  
 four generations; and was annexed to his dominions by  
 the King of Ahmednugger in the year 1574. The Deccan  
 was, therefore, at the time when its invasion was pro-  
 jected by the Moguls, divided among the sovereigns of  
 Beejapore, Ahmednuggur, and Golconda. At the time  
 when the Bahmenee empire of the Deccan was first divid-  
 ed into separate kingdoms, the Portuguese began their  
 conquests on the coast of Malabar, and took possession of  
 the island of Goa.

In addition to the army which Akbar had despatched  
 under Mirza Khan towards the Deccan, he sent orders to  
 his son Morad, to whom he had committed the government  
 of Guzerat, to join him with all his forces: Mirza had al-  
 ready been reinforced with the troops of Malwa, governed  
 by another son of the Emperor, and by six thousand horse  
 belonging to the king of Kandesh, who had endeavoured,  
 by submission, to avert the ruin which resistance would  
 ensure. The combined army marched upon Ahmednug-  
 ger, to which they laid siege. The place was defended  
 with great bravery, till provisions began to fail in the Mo-  
 gul army, when the generals opened a negotiation, and

agreed, upon condition of receiving Berar, to raise the BOOK III. siege of Ahmednuggur, and evacuate the kingdom. The CHAP. IV.  
1605. pain felt by the king at the loss of Berar soon prompted him to an effort for its recovery. His army fought a drawn battle with the Moguls. The resolution and ardour of Mirza led him to renew the engagement on the following day, when he defeated indeed the enemy, but was so weakened by his loss, as to be unable to pursue the fugitives, or to improve his victory, Mirza was soon after recalled. In his absence the Ahmednuggur arms gained some advantages ; and the Mogul interests declined. But in 1598 Mirza was restored to the army in the Deccan, to which the Emperor proceeded in person. Ahmednuggur was again besieged ; and at last compelled to open its gates. The territory of Ahmednuggur was formed into a province of the Mogul empire ; and its government conferred upon Danial, one of the sons of Akbar. The Emperor did not long survive these new acquisitions. He returned to Agra, and died in the fifty-second year of his reign.

At the time of the death of this successful prince, his great empire was divided into fifteen vice-royalties, called Subahs ; each governed immediately by its own viceroy called Subahdar. The names of the Subahs were Allahabad, Agra, Oude, Ajmere, Guzerat, Bahar, Bengal, Delhi, Kabul, Lahore, Multan, Malwa, Berar, Kandesh, and Ahmednugger.<sup>1</sup>

Shah Tamasp, the second in the line of the Sophis, held the sceptre of Persia till the twentieth year of the reign of Akbar ; when there was a rapid succession of several princes, most of whom were cut off by violence. During these disorderly reigns, the Usbeks made dangerous inroads upon the eastern provinces of Persia, and even threatened the security of the northern provinces of India. At the time of the death of Akbar, Shah Abbas the Great was upon the throne, a prince who made both his neighbours and his subjects tremble at his name.

Selim was the only surviving son of Akbar ; but even this fortunate circumstance did not save him from a rival. Selim's own son Khosroo was destined to supersede his father, by Azim Khan, whose daughter was the wife, and by Raja Man Sing, whose sister was the mother of Khos-

<sup>1</sup> Ayeen Akbery, II. 2.

BOOK III. were raised to the first rank of Omrahs, by the titles of  
 CHAR. IV. Aetikad Khan, and Asoph Jah; but their modesty and  
 1611. virtues reconciled all men to their sudden elevation; and  
 though the emperor, naturally voluptuous, was now withdrawn from business by the charms of his wife, the affairs of the empire were conducted with vigilance, prudence, and success; and the administration of Khaja Aissa was long remembered in India, as a period of justice and prosperity.

The Afghans broke from their mountains into the province of Kabul, in the sixth year of the reign of Jehangir; but an army was collected with expedition, and drove them back to their fastnesses with great slaughter. About the same time, one insurrection was raised in the province of Bengal, and another in that of Bahar. But the springs of the government were strong; and both were speedily suppressed.

More serious hostility began in Odipore, a mountainous district lying between Ajinere and Malwa, the prince of which, though he had acknowledged subjection to the Mohammedans, yet, protected by his mountains, had never been actually subdued. Amar Singh, the present Rana or prince of Odipore, attacked and defeated the imperial troops in Kandesh. Purvez, the second son of the Emperor, at the head of 30,000 horse, was sent to take the command of all the troops on the borders of the Deccan, and to oppose him. But Amar Singh was no contemptible foe, possessing great authority among his countrymen, and the obedience of a great proportion of the people called Mahrattas, who inhabited the mountains on the southwest, adjoining those of Odipore. Dissensions prevailed among the Omrahs of the imperial army, which the youth and easy character of Purvez made him unable to repress. Encompassed with difficulties, and fain to retreat, he was pursued with loss to Ajmere. Purvez was recalled; a temporary general was sent to take charge of the army; the Emperor himself prepared to march to Ajmere, whence he despatched his third son Khurrum, to prosecute the war. Khurrum entered the mountains with a force which alarmed the Hindus, and induced the Rana after a few losses to offer terms of accommodation. It suited the views of Khurrum to show liberality on this occasion, and

to conclude the war with despatch. Peace was effected ; BOOK III.  
and Sultan Khurrum returned to his father, with a vast increase of reputation and favour at the expense of Purvez, who was left, notwithstanding, governor of Kandesh, and lived in royal state at his capital Burrahanpore.<sup>1</sup>

CHAP. IV.  
1611-15.

It was at the time of which we are now speaking, that Sir Thomas Roe arrived at Surat, ambassador to the Great Mogul. In his way to the imperial presence, he repaired to Burrahanpore, to pay his respects to the Prince, and solicit permission for his countrymen to establish a factory in his province. Purvez, whose good-nature, affability, and taste, were better fitted for display, than his facility, indolence, and disfidence, for the duties of government, received the European messenger with magnificence and distinction. From Burrahanpore, Sir Thomas repaired to Ajmere, where the Emperor still remained. Jehangir was flattered by the compliments and solicitations of a distant monarch. But the rude court of India was not a place where the powers of an ambassador could be exerted with much effect.

In the year 1615, disturbances arose both in Guzerat and Kabul. In the most inaccessible parts of Guzerat lived a race of men, known by the name of Koolies, who exercised perpetual depredations and cruelties upon the inhabitants of the open and cultivated districts. The enormities of this people had lately risen to an extraordinary height, when Jehangir issued a sanguinary order for the utter extirpation of the race. Many were slaughtered ; the rest hunted to their mountains and deserts. Kabul was again overrun by the Afghans, who issued from the mountains adjoining that province on the north. But the Subahdar, collecting an army, overcame them in battle, and drove them back to their own country.

The provinces of the south were still unquiet. Purvez was engaged in a war with the princes of the Deccan, which, from the dissensions and treachery of his Omrahs, was not successful, and encouraged the Rama of Odi pore "to draw his neck from the yoke of obedience." The hopes of the Emperor were again cast upon his younger son ; and though his counsellors set before him the danger of sending the younger to supersede the elder, he made light of

<sup>1</sup> Written also Brampore, and Boorhanpore.



tory order following his apology, Mohâbet resolved to obey. BOOK III.  
 Five thousand Rajputs, who had served with him in the imper. army, offered themselves for his escort. When Mohâbet approached the imperial camp, he was ordered to stop, till he should account for the revenues of Bengal, and the plunder acquired in the recent battle. Mohâbet, deeply affected with this injurious treatment, sent his own son-in-law to the Emperor to represent his loyalty, and expose the injustice of his enemies. His son-in-law was seized in the royal square, stript of his clothes, bastinadoed, covered with rags, placed backwards on a horse of the most miserable description, and sent out of the camp amid the shouts and insults of the rabble. Mohâbet separated his retinue from the camp, and resolved to watch his opportunity. Next morning, the royal army began to cross the bridge which lay upon the river Jelum, or Behut, on the road between Lahore and Kabul. The greater part of the army had now passed, and the royal tents were yet unstruck; when Mohabet, with two thousand of his Rajputs, galloped to the bridge, and set it on fire. Hastening thence, with a few followers, to the royal quarters, he secured the person of the Emperor, and conveyed him without opposition to his camp. Noor Mahal, in the meantime, contrived to make her escape. Next day Asoph Jah, the vizir, made an obstinate attempt to ford the river and rescue the Emperor; but was repulsed with great slaughter. Unable after this to keep the army from dispersing, he fled to the castle of New Rotas on the Attock, where he was besieged and soon obliged to surrender at discretion, while his sister the Sultana fled to Lahore. The Emperor was treated by Mohâbet with profound respect, assured that no infringement of his authority was designed; that the necessity alone under which the enemies of Mohâbet had criminally placed him, was the lamented cause of the restraint which his imperial master endured. The generous Mohâbet, who really meant as he spoke, was well aware that for him there was no security under Jehangir, while influenced and directed by Noor Mahal. She was repairing to the Emperor upon his own request, when met by an escort of Mohâbet, who, under pretence of guarding, kept her a prisoner. He accused her immediately of treason and other high crimes; and the Emperor, on whose feeble

1615-28.



though his ambition knows no restraint either of nature BOOK III.  
or justice, his vigour will prevent intestine disorders, and CHAP. IV.  
give power to the laws." The views of Asoph, whose  
daughter was the favourite wife of Shah Jehan, corre-  
sponded, it seems, with those of Mohâbet : a plan of co-  
operation was concerted at that moment : and Mohâbet,  
with letters from the vizir, retired to the court of the  
Rana of Odipore, to wait for events.

1628.

The death of the prince Purvez, which happened soon after, of an apoplexy : and the death of Jehangir, which followed at a short interval, saved the conspirators from many difficulties, and probably crimes. It was found, when the will of the Emperor was opened, that he had named Shahriar, his youngest son, successor ; at the instigation of the Sultana, whose daughter, by her first husband, that prince had espoused. As a temporary expedient, the vizir placed Dawur Buksh, the son of the late prince Khosroo, upon the throne ; but at the same time despatched to Mohâbet the concerted signal for commencing operations in behalf of Shah Jehan. Asoph conquered the troops of Shahriar, and put out his eyes. Shah Jehan proceeded towards Agra ; and every obstacle was removed by the death of Dawur Buksh. Shah Jehan was proclaimed Emperor of the Moguls in the beginning of the year 1628.

He began his reign by removing all danger of competition. The whole of the male posterity of the house of Timur, with the exception of himself and his sons, were despatched by the dagger or the bow-string. His sons were four in number ; Dara surnamed Shêko, Shuja, Aurungzeb, and Morad ; the eldest, at this time, thirteen ; the youngest, four years of age. Even the daughters of Shah Jehan were important actors in the scenes of his eventful reign. They were three in number, women of talents and accomplishments, as well as beauty. The eldest, Jehânara, was her father's favourite, with a boundless influence over his mind ; lively, generous, open ; and attached to her brother Dara, whose disposition corresponded with her own. The second, Roshenrai Begum, was acute, artful, intriguing, and from conformity of character, favoured Aurungzeb. The gentleness of Suria Bânu,



exhibited the most indecent joy when assured of his destruction ; the measure of his terrors, while this bravo man was alive. After the conquest of Lodi, the war in the Deccan was little else than a series of ravages. The princes were able to make little resistance. A dreadful famine, from several years of excessive drought, which prevailed throughout India and a great part of Asia, added its horrid evils to the calamities which overwhelmed the inhabitants of the Deccan. The princes sued for peace, and the Emperor agreed to withdraw his army, which he now found it difficult to subsist, retaining, as a security for good behaviour, the forts which had fallen into his hands.

BOOK III.  
CHAR. IV.  
1640-55.

During the famine, religion had made the Hindus desert cultivation, and betake themselves to the supplications, penances, and ceremonies, pleasing to their gods. The calamities which sprung from this act of devotion raised the indignation of Shah Johan. Though no fanatic in his own religion, he pronounced that "an army of divinities who, so far from benefiting their votaries, led them to inflict upon themselves worse evils than the wrath of an enemy, were unfit to be endured in his dominions." The Hindus, however, took arms in defence of their gods; and, after some unavailing and unhappy efforts, he desisted, declaring, "that a prince who wishes to have subjects must take them with all the trumpery and baubles of their religion."

The Portuguese, who had established themselves at Hoogley, in Bengal, and whose presumption rose with their success, gave displeasure to the Subahdar. He transmitted a complaint to the Emperor. "Expel those idolators from my dominions," was the laconic answer. The Portuguese defended themselves bravely. When compelled to lay down their arms, the principal evil which they were doomed to suffer, was to see their religious images broken and destroyed. To this affair succeeded a second revolt of the Raja of Bundelcund, who warded off the destruction now decreed for him with obstinate bravery for two years. The third son of the Emperor, Aurungzeb, with an experienced general for his guide, had the nominal command of the army, though only thirteen years of age ; and showed that ardour in the work of destruction which distinguished his riper years.

**BOOK III.** When the Emperor marched from the borders of the  
**CHAP. IV.** Deccan, he offered the government of Kandesh and of  


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 1610-55. the frontier army, for which he saw that great talents  
 were required, to the vizir, who, fearing the consequences  
 of absence from the court, recommended successfully the  
 virtues and capacity of Mohâbet. Adil Shah, the King of  
 Beejapore, threatened to wrest Dowlatabad from the Fut-  
 teh Khan, who governed in the name of the young Shah  
 of Ahmednuggur. To prevent the annexation of this  
 important fortress to the dominions of his rival, Futteh  
 Khan offered it to Shah Jehan, and Mohâbet marched to  
 receive possession. Futteh Khan repented of his offer ;  
 and Mohâbet laid siege to the fortress. Dowlatabad is  
 a place of great natural strength, standing upon a de-  
 tached and precipitous rock, and had been fortified with  
 the highest efforts of Oriental skill ; but famine at last  
 made Futteh submit. The young prince, his master, was  
 carried a prisoner to Gualior. Futteh Khan was allowed  
 to retain his private property, and was destined to become  
 one of the high Omrahs of the empire : but being seized  
 with insanity, the consequence of a wound formerly re-  
 ceived in his head, he was carried to Lahore, where he  
 lived many years on a liberal pension. The fall of Dow-  
 latabad put a period to the dynasty of Nizam Shah, which  
 had swayed the sceptre of Ahmednugger for 150 years.<sup>1</sup>  
 Mohâbet, resolving to pursue the reduction of the Deccan,  
 marched towards Telingana, and laid siege to a fortress ;  
 but falling sick, and finding himself unable to superintend  
 the operations of the army, he withdrew the troops to  
 Burrahanpore, where he died at an advanced age.

The tranquillity of the empire permitted the ambition  
 of Shah Jehan to attach itself to the subjugation of the  
 Deccan. He began to march from Agra. That time  
 might be afforded to the governors of the provinces for  
 joining him with their troops, his progress was purposely  
 slow. In rather less than a year he arrived at Dowlatabad  
 with an accumulated army. This great host was divided  
 into twelve bodies, and poured upon the kingdoms of  
 Golconda and Beejapore, with orders not to spare the

<sup>1</sup> The fall of Dowlatabad is somewhat differently related by Dow in his history of Nizam Shah, p. 151. We have here followed the account of Ferishta. Scott's Deccan, I. 402.

severities of war : "because war (such was the reflection BOOK III. of Shah Jehan) was the scourge of humanity, and compassion served only to prolong its evils." One hundred and fifteen towns and fortresses were taken in the course of a year. The unfortunate sovereigns were overwhelmed with calamity, and solicited peace on any terms. It was granted ; but on condition that they should resign their dominions, and be contented to hold them as tributaries of the Mogul. The province of Kandesh, with the army in the Deccan, was left under the command of the son of the late Mohâbet, an accomplished chief. But he died in a little time, and Aurungzeb, the Emperor's aspiring son, was appointed to succeed him.

CHAP. IV.

1640-55.

About this time, a refractory Raja, of Berar, drew upon himself the imperial arms. That large district of Hindustan was regularly subdued ; and bestowed as a Subah upon the successful general. Another event yielded high satisfaction to the Emperor. The province of Kandahar, which had been wrested from the Moguls by the power of Abbas, Shah of Persia, was now recovered by the treachery of its governor, disgusted with the cruel and capricious sway of Sefi, the successor of Abbas on the Persian throne.

Of the operations next in order, it is to be lamented that our information is very imperfect. The province of Bengal, we are told, was invaded from the kingdom of Assam, the enemy descending the Brahmapootra in boats, till its junction with the Ganges below Dacca. The Subahdar of Bengal experienced little difficulty in repelling the invaders ; and, not contented with an easy triumph, pursued them into their own country, took possession of several forts, and reduced some provinces ; but he was obliged to return for want of subsistence, and suffered extremely in his retreat by the commencement of the rains and the badness of the roads. It is related also, that the kingdom of Tibet was reduced about this time by another of the generals of Shah Jehan, who was delighted to conquer in regions which the arms of his predecessor had never reached. But to these conquests no effects are ascribed ; and of that which is said to have been accomplished in Tibet, we are told neither the place, nor the extent, nor the circumstances, neither the road by which the army was led to it, nor that by which it was conducted back.



rungzob at Burrahapore ; and that ambitious, but artful BOOK III.  
prince, affected to act with profound submission under CHA. IV.  
the orders of his father's vizir. These two leaders understood one another. The war was conducted with concert and ability. The city of Beder was taken. The Beejapor army was defeated in the field. Kalburga, the ancient capital of the Deccanee empire, submitted ; and the king threw himself at the feet of the conqueror. After settling the terms of submission, which were severe, Aurungzob returned to Burrahapore, and the vizir was recalled to Agra.<sup>1</sup>

1610-55.

After these events, the health of the Emperor excited alarm ;<sup>2</sup> when the flames, which had for some time been with difficulty compressed, broke out with irresistible fury. To every brother under an Oriental despotism the sons of the reigning monarch look as either a victim, or a butcher ; and see but one choice between the Musnud and the grave. The usual policy of Oriental fear is to educate the royal youths to effeminacy and imbecility in the haram ; but the sons of Shah Jehan had been led into action, and indulged with the possession of power. They were not all men of capacity ; but they were all ardent, brave, and aspiring ; and each thought himself worthy of empire. Dara, the eldest, gallant, open, sincere, but impetuous, thoughtless, and rash, was destined to the sovereignty by his father, and generally kept near himself ; Shujah, the second, was now Subahdar of Bengal, with more prudence and discretion than his elder brother, but far inferior in those qualities to the deep and dissembling Aurungzob, who had from an early age affected a character of piety, pretending to hate the business and vanities of the world, and to desire only a retreat where he might practise the austeries and devotions pleasing to God. Morâd, the youngest of the sons of Shah Jehan, was conspicuous chiefly for his courage ; popular, from his affability and generosity ; but credulous and weak. When his father's illness gave fire to the com-

<sup>1</sup> For these transactions of Aurungzob and Emir Junla, see Bernier, *ut supra*, p. 22-32, and the reign of Shah Jehan, chap. v. In Dow.

<sup>2</sup> Dow, who follows his Persian authority, says, the malady was paralysis and strangury, brought on by excesses in the harem ; Bernier the physician speaks of it in the following terms ; " Je ne parlerai, point ici de sa maladie, et Je n'en rapporteray pas les particularitez. Je diray seulement qu'elle estoit peu convenable à un vieillard de soixante-dix ans et plus, qui devoit plutôt songer à conserver ses forces qu'à les ruiner comme il fit." *Ut supra*, p. 33.



father, departed with his family and a few attendants to BOOK III.  
 Delhi, where some imperial troops and treasures were CHAP. IV.  
 placed at his disposal, and whence he proposed to effect a  
 junction with Soliman. All the cunning and diligence of  
 Aurungzeb were now exerted to the utmost, to improve  
 his victory. He affected to treat Morad as Emperor; and  
 began to make preparations for himself, as intending im-  
 mediately to set out on a religious pilgrimage to Mecca.  
 In the mean time he wrote letters, and exhausted the arts  
 of seduction, to detach the Omrahs from the cause of Dara.  
 His principal solicitude was to debauch the army of Soli-  
 man; which he accomplished so effectually, that the un-  
 fortunate Prince found at last he could place no dependence  
 on its obedience, and was not even safe in its power. He  
 fled from his danger; and took shelter with the Raja of  
 Serinagur, an unconquered kingdom of Hindus, among the  
 northern mountains. The victorious army advanced to-  
 wards Agra; but the Emperor ordered the gates of the  
 citadel to be shut, and Aurungzeb was still afraid to offer  
 violence to his father. He wrote a letter, replete with the  
 strongest professions of loyalty, and of the most profound  
 submission to his parent and sovereign. The Emperor,  
 with the hope of drawing him into his power, affected to  
 be satisfied, and invited him to his presence. Aurungzeb  
 every day pretended that he was just about to comply;  
 but every day found an excuse for delay. After a series of  
 intrigues, he pretended that to set his mind at ease, in  
 appearing under humiliation and abasement before his  
 father, it was necessary that his son should previously be  
 admitted into the citadel with a guard for his person. The  
 Emperor, who was blinded by his desire to have Aurungzeb  
 in his hands, assented to a condition which seemed indis-  
 pensable. When he found himself a prisoner in the hands  
 of his grandson, his rage and vexation exceeded bounds;  
 and he offered to resign to him the crown, if he would set  
 him at liberty, and join him in defeating the schemes of  
 Aurungzeb. But the youth, though not averse to the  
 prospect of reigning, and not much restrained by the sense  
 of filial duty, refused to comply; and after some hesitation  
 and delay, Shah Jehan sent the keys of the citadel to  
 Aurungzeb. The hypocrisy of Aurungzeb was not yet  
 renounced. By a letter, which was carefully made public,

1658.

BOOK III. he declared ; that with the utmost grief he had been reduced to these extremities ; and that as soon as Dara, to whose crimes every evil was owing, should be disabled from future mischief, the happiest event of his life would be, to restore to his father the plenitude of his power.

1658.

To deliver himself from Morâd was the next study of Aurungzeb. The friends of that thoughtless prince had at last brought him to look with suspicion upon his brother's designs ; and even to meditate an act which might deliver him finally from so dangerous a rival. The sagacity of Aurungzeb enabled him to discover the intended blow, which he contrived to elude at the very moment when it was aimed and ready to fall. In his turn he inveigled Morâd to an entertainment, and, having intoxicated him with wine, withdrew his arms while he slept ; seized him without any commotion, and sent him a prisoner to the castle of Agra.<sup>1</sup>

It was now useless, if not hurtful to the cause of Aurungzeb, any longer to disavow his ultimate purpose. But he waited till he was importuned by his nobles ; and then, on the second of August, 1658, in the garden of Azabad, near Delhi, pretending to be overcome by their entreaties, he submitted to receive the ensigns of royalty ; and assumed the pompous title of Aulum-gir, or Conqueror of the World.

Aulum-gir allowed not what he had already achieved to slacken his efforts in finishing what remained to be done. Dara had taken the route towards Lahore ; and had the resources of the northern provinces, Lahore, Multan, and Kabul, at his command : Soliman was ready to descend from the mountains with the assistance of the Raja of Serinagur, and with a body of adherents who still approached the size of an army : and Shujah was master of the rich province of Bengal. Aulum-gir saw, what every skilful leader has seen, that, in the coarse business of war, expedition is the grand instrument of success. He hastened toward the Sutlej, from the banks of which Dara retreated upon the news of his approach. Aurungzeb, pressing on, drove him first from the Beyah, then from

<sup>1</sup> Bernier had not heard of the attempt of Morad upon the life of Aurungzeb. It is here stated upon the Persian authorities of Dow, Bernier, ut supra, p. 109—114. Dow's Shah Jehan, ch. iii. Hist. of Hindustan, vol. iii.

Lahore, and next from Multan; the unfortunate prince BOOK III.  
who might have resisted with some chance of success, CHAP. IV.  
having lost his resolution together with his fortune. From  
Multan, he fled across the Indus to the mountains of  
Bicker, when Aurungzeb, declaring the war against him to  
be closed, left eight thousand horse to pursue him, and  
returned with haste to Agra.

1658.

He had no sooner arrived at Agra, than he learned, what he partly expected, that Shujah was already in force, and in full march toward the capital. He sent to his son Mohammed, whom he had left at Multan, to join him with all his forces; and in the mean time took the road to Bengal, but by slow marches, till Mohammed came up. Shujah intrenched himself near Allahabad; and waited for the arrival of his enemy. Though Shujah did not avail himself of all his advantages, he was able to join battle with a fair prospect of success. Nor was this all. In the very heat of the action, the Rajah, Jesswunt Sing, who had made his peace with Aurungzeb, and joined him with his forces, turned his arms against him, and fell upon the rear of his army. The dismay and desertion which every unexpected incident scatters through an Indian army began to appear. But the firmness of the usurper recovered the blow. His elephant, which was wounded, and began to be ungovernable, he ordered to be chained immovable by the feet; the soldiers, still beholding the imperial castle opposed to the enemy, were rallied by the generals; Shujah committed the same fatal mistake which had ruined Dara; he descended from his elephant, and his army dispersed.

Emir Jumla, the ancient friend of Aurungzeb, who from his place of confinement, or pretended confinement in the Deccan, had joined him on the march, performed eminent service in this battle. It is even said, that Aurungzeb, when his elephant became ungovernable, had one foot out of the castle to alight, when Jumla, who was near him on horseback, cried out sternly, " You descend from the throne!" Aurungzeb smiled, had a moment for reflection, and replaced himself in the houda.

Shujah and his army fled during the night, while Aurungzeb was in no condition to pursue them. Jesswunt Sing and his Rajpoots, who had plundered the camp, had the

BOOK III. audacity to wait the attack of Aurungzeb the following  
 CHAR. IV. day ; and were routed, but without being obliged to  
 abandon their spoil. Leaving Mohammed with a force to  
 1658. pursue the vanquished Shujah, Aurungzeb hurried back to  
 Agra.

The haste was not without a cause. Dara, after having arrived at Bicker, crossed the desert with his family, and arrived in Guzerat, where he gained the governor. Aurungzeb, aware how small a spark might kindle into a flame among the disaffected rajas of the mountains, and the distant viceroys and princes of the Deccan, was eager to allow the danger no time to augment. He courted Jesswunt Sing, who had so recently betrayed him, to prevent his co-operation with Dara : and marched with all expedition to Ajmere. Dara had already seized an important pass, and intrenched himself. Aurungzeb was not a little startled when he first beheld the advantages of the position and strength of his works. He set in motion his usual engines of treachery and deceit ; and by their assistance gained a complete and final victory. Deserted by all, and robbed of his effects by a body of Mahrattas in his service, Dara fled towards the Indus with his family, who, nearly destitute of attendants, were on the point of perishing in the desert. After many sufferings, he was seized by a treacherous chief, who owed to him his life and fortune ; and delivered into the hands of Aurungzeb. His murder was only a few days deferred ; during which he was ignominiously exposed about the streets of Delhi.

While the emperor was engaged in opposing Dara, his son Mohammed, and Jumia the Vizir, prosecuted the war against Shujah. That prince had fled from the battle to Patna, from Patna to Mongeer, from Mongeer to Rajamahal, and from Rajamahal he was forced to retreat to Tanda. Shujah was still possessed of resources ; his courage and resolution failed not ; and an event occurred which promised a turn in the tide of his affairs. Mohammed had been formerly enamoured of the daughter of Shujah ; and their union had been projected, before the distractions of the royal family had filled the empire with confusion and bloodshed. It is said that the princess wrote to Mohammed, reminding him of his former tenderness, and deprecating the ruin of her father. The impatient and

presumptuous Mohammed was little pleased with the treatment he sustained at the hands of Aurungzeb ; his heart was touched with the tears of the princesses ; and he resolved to desert the cause of his own father, and join that of hers. He expected that the army, in which he was popular, would follow his example. But the authority and address of Jumla preserved order and allegiance. The news of his son's defection quickly reached Aulum-gir, who concluded for certain that he had carried the army along with him, and set out in the utmost expedition with a great force for Bengal. In the meantime Jumla attacked the army of Shujah, which he defeated ; and the conquered princes retreated to Dacca. Aurungzeb, pursuing his usual policy, wrote a letter to Mohammed, which he took care that the agents of Shujah should intercept. It purported to be an answer to one received ; offering to accept the returning duty of Mohammed, and to pardon his error, on the performance of a service which was nameless, but seemed to be understood. This letter smote the mind of Shujah with incurable disgust. After a time Mohammed was obliged to depart, and with a heavy heart to intrust himself to his unsforgiving father. He was immediately immured in Gualior, where, after languishing for some years, he was intrusted with liberty, though not with power ; but he died a short time after.<sup>1</sup> Shujah was speedily reduced to extremity in Dacca, and having no further means of resistance, fled from the province, and sought refuge in the kingdom of Arracan. But the wretched Raja, who at once coveted his wealth, and dreaded his pursuers, violated without scruple the laws of hospitality and mercy. Death, in some of the worst of its forms, soon overtook the family of Shujah.

During these transactions, rewards, which were too powerful for the virtue of a Hindu, had been offered to the Raja of Serinagur ; and shortly after the ruin of Shujah, Soliman, the last object of the fears of Aulum-gir, was delivered into his hands, and added to the number of the prisoners of Gualior.

<sup>1</sup> This account of the fate of Mohammed is given by Mr. Stewart, (*Hist. Bengal*, p. 276) on the authority of the Mussit Alumgiry, and varies from the account of Ferishta, who says he died in Gualior.—M.

Dow's supplement to Ferishta is here intended. Ferishta's history closes with the reign of Akbar, and there is reason to believe that he did not long survive A.D. 1611 - above 40 years before these events.—W.

**BOOK III.** From the time when Aulum-gir, having subdued all  
**CHAP. IV.** competition for the throne, found himself the undisputed  


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 1661. lord of the Mogul empire, the vigilance and steadiness of his administration preserved so much tranquillity in the empire, and so much uniformity in its business, that the historians who describe only wars and revolutions, have found little to do. The most important series of transactions were those which occurred in the Deccan; which ceased not during the whole of this protracted reign; laid the foundation of some of the most remarkable of the subsequent events; and had a principal share in determining the form which the political condition of India thereafter assumed. That we may relate these transactions without interruption, we shall shortly premise such of the other transactions handed down to us (for we have no complete history of Aurungzeb) as fell near the beginning of his reign, and merit any regard.

When Aurungzeb marched from the Deccan to contend for the crown, he left Mohammed Mauzim, his second son, to command in his name. When established upon the throne, it was not altogether without apprehension that he contemplated so vast a power in hands which possibly might turn it against him. Mauzim, aware of the jealous disposition of his father, preserved the utmost humility of exterior; avoided all display, either of wealth or power; was vigilant in business; exact in obeying the commands of the Emperor, and in remitting the revenue and dues of his government. He was recalled, notwithstanding his prudence, and Shaista Khan made viceroy in the Deccan. At the same time, Aurungzeb, seeking security for the present, by directing hope to the future, declared Mohammed Mauzim heir to the throne, and changed his name to Shah Aulum, or King of the World.

The third year of his reign was visited with a great famine, a calamity which ravages India with more dreadful severity than almost any other part of the globe. It was occasioned by the recurrence of an extraordinary drought, which in India almost suspends vegetation, and, throughout the principal parts of the country, leaves both men and cattle destitute of food. The prudence of Aurungzeb, if his preceding actions will not permit us to call it his humanity, suggested to him the utmost activity of be-

nefiscence on this calamitous occasion. The rents of the BOOK III.  
husbandman, and other taxes, were remitted. The treasury of the Emperor was opened without limit. Corn was bought in the provinces where the produce was *least*, conveyed to those in which it was *most* defective; and distributed to the people at reduced prices. The great economy of Aurungzeb, who allowed no expense for the luxury and ostentation of a court, and who managed with skill and vigilance the disbursements of the state, afforded him a resource for the wants of his people.

1665.

It was before the commencement, perhaps, of this calamity, that the empire was agitated by the prospect of a fresh revolution from a dangerous sickness of the Emperor.<sup>1</sup> The court was full of intrigues; on one hand, for Mauzim, the declared successor; on the other, for Akbar, a young, and even infant son of Aurungzeb. Shah Jehan himself was still alive; and the people in general expected that he would resume the reins of government. But the nation was relieved from its terrors, and from the calamities which too certainly would have fallen upon it. The usurper recovered. But the efforts of Sultan Mauzim, to secure the succession, expressed to the suspicious mind of Aulum-gir, more of the desire to obtain a throne than to preserve a father; and his purpose in regard to the succession, if his declaration in favour of Mauzim had ever been more than a pretence, was from this time understood to have suffered a radical change.

To forward his designs in favour of Akbar, he applied to Shah Jehan, to obtain for that prince, in marriage, the daughter of Dara, who remained in the seraglio of her grandfather. Shah Jehan, though strictly confined in the palace at Agra, had been treated with great respect; retaining his women and servants, and furnished with every amusement in which he was understood to delight. He had not, however, remitted his indignation against Aurungzeb, and now sent a haughty and insulting refusal. Aurungzeb had prudence not to force his inclination; and,

<sup>1</sup> Dow, (Hist. of Aurungzebe, chap. iv., places the Emperor's illness after the famine. But Bernier, who was on the spot, and mentions the arrival of ambassadors from the Khan of the Usbekis first among the events succeeding the termination of the civil war, says, that those ambassadors, who remained somewhat more than four months, had not departed from Delhi when the Emperor was taken ill. Bernier, *Événemens Particuliers des Etats du Mogul*, p. 10.

BOOK III. so far from showing any resentment, redoubled his efforts  
 CHAP. IV. to soften his mind.

The services of Emir Jumla had been rewarded with  
 1605. the government of Bengal. But the mind of Aurungzeb, and indeed the experience of Oriental government told him, that he was never safe while there was a man alive who had power to hurt him. He wished to withdraw the Vizir from his government, but without a rupture, which might raise distrust in the breasts of all his Omrahs. To afford him occupation which would detain his mind from planning defection, he recommended to him a war against the king of Assam, who had broken into Bengal during the distractions of the empire, and still remained unchastised. Jumla, who promised himself both plunder and reputation from this expedition, and whose exploring eye beheld an illustrious path through the kingdom of Assam to the conquest of China, undertook the expedition with alacrity. He ascended the Brahmapootra in boats. The Assamese abandoned the country which lies on the side of the mountains facing Bengal; but the fortress of Azo was garrisoned, and stood un attack. After the reduction of Azo, Jumla crossed the mountains of Assam, vanquished the king, who took refuge in his capital, forced him to fly to the shelter of the mountains, and he became master of a great part of the kingdom. But the rains came on, which in that kingdom are peculiarly violent, and lay the greater part of the level country under water, Jumla found it impossible to subsist his army; and was under the necessity of returning to Bengal. Incredible were the difficulties with which he had to contend; necessities were wanting, the roads covered with water, and the enemy everywhere harassing his retreat. The capacity of Jumla triumphed over all obstructions; he brought back the greater part of the army safe; and wrote to the Emperor that he would next year carry his arms to the heart of China. But the army, on its return, was afflicted with a dysentery, the effect of the hardships it had endured. The general escaped not; and, worn out as he was with years and fatigue, he fell a victim to the violence of the disease. "You," said the Emperor to the son of Jumla, whom he had recently made generalissimo of the horse, "have lost a father; and I

have lost the greatest and most dangerous of my BOOK III. friends."<sup>1</sup>

CHAP. IV.

1665.

The next event is ludicrous, perhaps, in itself, but of high importance, as an instance of the power of superstition among the weak and credulous inhabitants of India. Of the professors of devotion and penance, going by the name of Fakirs, one class is distinguished by wandering about the country in crowds, almost naked, pretending to live by mendicity, but stealing, plundering, and even committing murder, wherever prompted by the hope of advantage. In the territory of Marwar, or Jodpore, an old woman, possessed of considerable property, began to enlarge her liberalities towards the Fakirs. The sturdy beggars crowded around her, to the number of some thousands, and not satisfied with the wealth of their pious patroness, made spoil of the neighbouring country, and rioted in devotion and sensuality at her abode. The people, exasperated by these oppressions, rose repeatedly upon the saints; but were defeated with great slaughter. The idea of enchantment was generated. The people regarded the old woman as a sorceress; and believed that she compounded for her followers a horrid mess which rendered them proof against human weapons, and invincible. What they were not rendered by enchantments, they were rendered by the belief of them. The Fakirs, finding themselves, under the auspices of an old woman, too formidable for resistance, assembled in great numbers, and spread their devastations to a wide extent. The Raja of Marwar attacked them, but was defeated. The collectors of the imperial revenue marched against them with the troops under their command, but sustained a similar disaster. Becoming presumptuous from unexpected success, they

<sup>1</sup> Bernier, *ut supra*, p. 87.—M. A particular account of the invasion of Assam is given from the *Hadiket-as-safli* in the Calcutta Quarterly Magazine, June 1825. The Mogul army suffered not only upon its retreat from disease, but from famine and sickness, during the rains whilst in the country. As an instance of their distress, it is stated that the battalion under Diler Khan was reduced from 1600 to 400 men. No such fort as Azo is mentioned; the principal towns of Assam were Gergaon and Gohati, both which fell into the hands of the invaders, but were given up on their retreat, which was purchased by a present payment of money and elephants, and a promise, which no doubt was never fulfilled, of more. Mir Junula was taken ill in Assam, and died at Khizerpore in Kooch Behar. According to the Assamese accounts of this occurrence, the Moguls were not only obliged to make a precipitate retreat, but were driven out of territories bordering on Assam, which had for some time been subject to the Emperor.—*Account of Assam; Annals of Oriental Literature*.—W.

BOOK III. resolved on a march to the capital, to the number of  
 CHAP. IV. twenty thousand plundering saints, with the sacred old  
 woman at their head. About five days' journey from Agra,  
 1665. they were opposed by a body of imperial troops, under the  
 collector of the district. Him they overcame; and now  
 grasped in their imaginations the whole wealth and autho-  
 rity of the state. They set up their old woman as sove-  
 reign. Aurungzeb felt the danger to be serious; for the  
 soldiers were infected with the superstition of the people;  
 and it was hazardous to the last degree, from the terrors  
 with which they might be disordered, to permit them to  
 engage with the sainted banditti. What was first de-  
 manded, an antidote to the religious contagion, was in-  
 vented by Aurungzeb. His own sanctity was as famous  
 as that of the old woman; he pretended that by means of  
 incantation, he had discovered a counter-enchantment;  
 he wrote with his own hand, certain mysterious words  
 upon slips of paper, one of which, carried upon the point  
 of a spear before each of the squadrons, he declared would  
 render impotent the spells of the enchantress. The Em-  
 peror was believed, and though the Fakirs fought with  
 great desperation, they were all cut to pieces, except a few  
 whom the humanity of the general led him to spare. "I  
 find," said Aurungzeb, "that too much religion among the  
 vulgar, is as dangerous as too little in the monarch."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The whole of this story is a specimen of misrepresentation, for which, how-  
 ever, the author is no further censurable than in having too easily given  
 credence to a tale which bears evident marks of inaccuracy and exaggeration.  
 The best Mohammedan writers state the matter differently. They say nothing  
 of the patronage by a rich old woman, of a set of sturdy beggars, or of their riot  
 and sensuality, or of their conflicts with the people, or of their setting up the  
 old dame as sovereign. The story, as they tell it, wears every appearance of  
 probability. The persons with whom the disturbance began were as unlike  
 vagrant Fakirs as possible. They were a set of quietists—Hindu quakers as  
 they have been termed. Sádhs or Satnámis, who acknowledge one God only,  
 offer worship to no idol or created thing; who enjoin truth as the first of  
 virtues, who prescribe self-denial, temperance and continence, prohibit the  
 use of all stimulating drugs and liquors, and forbid the assumption of the  
 mendicant marks and raiment, and the acceptance of alms. Trans. R. As.  
 Society, vol. I. 251; and As. Res. vol. xvi. 209. They of course follow a  
 secular life; one of them was engaged in the cultivation of his land, when  
 some dispute arose between him and the Peon or revenue watchman set to  
 look after the government share of the crop; the dispute ended in an affray  
 in which the Peon was worsted; he returned to the charge with some of his  
 companions: the Satnámi was aided by his fellows, and the Revenue officers  
 were put to the rout. This success inspirited the people of the country to  
 make common cause with the Sadhs, and their strength became formidable;  
 troops were sent against them, but they were defeated, and then a notion of  
 their invincibility spread amongst the Mohammedans. It was they who reported  
 that the insurgents were invulnerable, and amongst other stories asserted

In the seventh year of the reign of Aurungzeb, his father died. The life of Shah Jehan had reached its natural period; but his death did not escape the suspicion of the *pousta*, that detestable invention of despotic fears.<sup>1</sup>

BOOK III.  
CHAP. IV.  
1665.

After the death of Jumla, the Raja of Arracan had invaded the contiguous quarter of Bengal, and possessed himself of Chittagong, and all the country along the coast of the Ganges. He availed himself of the Portuguese settlers, who were numerous at Chittagong, and of their ships, which abounded in the bay of Bengal, and it is said infested the coast and every branch of the Ganges as plunderers and pirates. These evils it consisted not with the vigilance of Aurungzeb to leave without a cure. A new deputy was appointed for Bengal; an army collected itself at Dacca; and descended the river. The enemy, though master of the forts and strong-holds of the country, without much resistance retired. The Portuguese were invited to betray them, and made no hesitation by their obedience to purchase for themselves privileges and settlements in Bengal.<sup>2</sup>

that they were led by a female upon a horse of wood, to which their magic had given animation. The Rajpoot Zemindars, near Delhi, joining the insurgents, Aurungzeb began to be alarmed, and sent a considerable force against them, directing the men to wear prayers and amulets upon their persons as counter-charms against the conjuration of the enemy. These were no mysterious slips written by his hand, but passages from the Koran, which the Mohammedans very commonly wear. There is very little authority for his supposed observation, and it is not likely that he would have spoken of the faith of infidels as "too much religion." The affair was clearly a sudden and aimless rising of the peasantry and landholders, originating in an insignificant quarrel, but expressing the prevailing feelings of the country, provoked by the exaction and tyranny of the imperial government. It owed neither its commencement nor its extent to "the power of superstition."—W.

<sup>1</sup> The Pousta is thus described by the physician, Bernier. Ce pousta n'est autre chose que du parot écrasé qu'on laisse la nuit tremper dans de l'eau; c'est ce qu'on fait ordinairement boire à Goualeor, à ces princes auxquels on ne veut pas faire couper la teste; c'est la première chose qu'on leur porte le matin, et on ne leur donne point à manger qu'ils n'en ayant bu une grande tasse, on les laisseroit plutôt mourir de faim; cela les fait devenir maigres et mourir insensiblement, perdant, peu à peu les forces et l'entendement, et devenus comme tout endormis et étourdis, et c'est par là qu'un dit qu'on s'est défaict de Sepo-Chokouh, du petit fils de Morâd, et de Soliman même. Bernier, Hist. de la dernière Révolution des Estates du Grand Mogul, p. 170. It is said, that when the gallant Soliman was, by the treachery of the Raja of Seringur, delivered into the cruel hands of Aurungzeb, and introduced into his presence, when every one was struck with the noble appearance of the graceful and manly youth, he entreated that he might be immediately beheaded; and not reserved to the lingering destruction of the pousta; when the hypocritical Aurungzeb forbade him to fear, adding, that he was cautious, but not cruel. Bernier, Ibd, p. 163. Dow, Reign of Aurungzeb, ch. iv.

<sup>2</sup> Bernier, (Événemens Particul. des Estates du Mogul, p. 88—101) speaks of these Portuguese as infamous buccaneers; and their own historian, Faria do Souza, countenances the assertion, which might have been founded upon the

**BOOK III.** The mistake of a secretary was near involving the empire, not only in hostilities with the whole force of Persia, but in all the horrors of a civil war. Aurungzeb, who had

**1664.** been complimented upon ascending the throne by embassies from the Khan of the Usbecks, and from Abbas II. Shah of Persia, proposed, after settling the affairs of his government, to make the suitable return. The secretary who composed the letters, addressed to the respective sovereigns, inadvertently designated the Shah by no higher title than belonged to the Khan of the Usbecks. This was interpreted as a meditated insult ; and resented by a declaration of hostilities. Aurungzeb wished to explain the mistake ; but his ambassador was not admitted even to an audience. His own weapons were tried against him ; and he added an illustrious instance to prove, that he who is practised in the arts of deception, is not always the hardest to deceive. Of the Mohammedan army and officers of the Mogul empire, as some were Moguls, some Afghans, some Turks, and some Usbecks, so a large proportion were Persians, among whom was the Vizir himself. The fidelity of this part of his subjects, Aurungzeb was by no means willing to try, in a war with their native country. A letter was intercepted from Abbas, addressed to the Vizir himself, importing that a conspiracy existed among the Persian nobles to seize the Emperor when he should take the field. Aurungzeb was transported with apprehension and rage. He issued a sudden order to the city guards to surround the houses of the Persian Omrahs, which they were forbidden to quit under pain of death. Aurungzeb found himself on the brink of a precipice. The Persian chiefs were numerous and powerful ; a common danger united them ; the descendants of the Afghan nobility, who formed a considerable proportion of the men in power, and hated the Moguls, by whom the Afghan dynasty had been driven from the throne, were very likely to make common cause with the Persians. Even if guilty, he beheld appalling danger in attempting to punish them ; but he now reflected that he might have been deceived, and wished only for the means of a decent

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reports of enemies. The Portuguese followed their merchandise as their chief occupation, but like the English and Dutch of the same period, had no objection to plunder, when it fell in their way.

retreat. He sent for some of the principal Omrahs ; but they excused themselves from attendance. All had assembled their friends and dependents ; fortified their houses, and waited the appeal to arms. After a suspense of two days, the princess Jehanara arrived. She had been sent for, express, upon the first alarm. The favourite daughter of Shah Jehan, by whom the Persians had always been distinguished and exalted, might render, by her mediation, the most important assistance. After a short conference with the Emperor, she presented herself in her chair at the door of the Vizir. This was an act of supreme confidence and honour. The door of the mansion flew open ; the Vizir hastened to the hall of audience, and prostrated himself at the foot of the throne. Aurungzeb descended, and embraced him. Convinced that he had been deceived, he now sought only to obliterate all memory of the offence ; and with some loss of reputation, and a remainder of disgust in the breasts of some of the Omrahs, he recovered himself from the dangerous position in which a moment of rashness had placed him. Shah Abbas, in the meantime, with a large army, was upon his march towards the confines of India ; and Aurungzeb, who had sent forward his son Mauzim to harass the enemy, but not to fight, made rapid preparations to meet him in person. Shah Abbas, however, died in the camp, before he arrived at the scene of action. His successor wished to mount the throne, free from the embarrassment of an arduous war ; and Aurungzeb was more intent upon gaining conquests in the Deccan, than in Persia. An accommodation, therefore, was easily made.<sup>1</sup>

These transactions were all contained within the first ten years of the reign of Arungzeb, during which several events had already occurred in the Deccan. A new enemy had arisen, whose transactions were not as yet alarming, but who had already paved the way to revolutions of the greatest importance. This was Sivajee, the founder of the Mahratta empire ; a power which began when the empire of the Moguls was in its utmost strength ; and rose to greatness upon its ruins. In the mountainous regions which extended from the borders of Guzerat to Canara, beyond the island of Goa, lived a race of Hindus,

<sup>1</sup> Dow, Reign of Arungzeb, ch. vi.

**BOOK III.** who resembled the mountaineers in almost all the other parts of Hindustan, that is, were a people still more rude and uncivilised than the inhabitants of the plains, and at the same time far more hardy and warlike. They consisted of various tribes or communities, to some of which (it appears not to how many) the name of Mahratta, afterwards extended to them all, was applied.<sup>1</sup> Sivajee was the son of Shahjee, a Hindu in the service of Ibrahim Adil Shah, King of Beejapore, from whom he received a jaghir in the Carnatic, with a command of ten thousand horse.<sup>2</sup> Sivajee, when very young, was sent along with his mother to reside at Poonah, of which, as a zemindary, his father had obtained a grant, and of which he intrusted the management, together with the charge of his wife and son, to one of his officers, named Dadajee Punt. The mother of Sivajee was an object of aversion to her husband; and the son shared in the neglect which was the lot of his mother. He grew up under Dadajee to vigour, both of body and mind; and at seventeen years of age engaged a number of banditti, and ravaged the neighbouring districts. Dadajee, afraid of being made to answer for these enormities, and unable to restrain them, swallowed poison, and died; when Sivajee took possession of the Zemindary, increased the number of his troops,

<sup>1</sup> Mheerut, or Mharat, the name of a district, which under the Deccane sovereignty was part of the province of Dowlatabad, may in former ages, says Mr. Jonathan Scott, have given name to a larger division of Dekkan and the original country of the Mahrattas. Scott's Deccan, Introd. p. x. Ibid. I. 32. The Mahratta language extends along the coast from the island of Bardez to the river Tapti. Orme, Histor. Frag. p. 57. It is said by Col. Wilks, (Hist. Sketches, p. 6) that "from Beder the Mahratta language is spread over the whole country to the northwestward of the Canara, and of a line which, passing considerably to the eastward of Dowlatabad, forms an irregular sweep until it touches the Tapti, and follows the course of that river to the western sea—but that in the geographical tables of the Hindus, the name of Maharashtra, and by contraction Mahratta desum (or country) seems to have been more particularly appropriated to the eastern portion of this great region, including Baglana, part of Berar and Kandeish; the western was known by its present name Concan."

<sup>2</sup> This is an error. Shahjee was never in the service of Ibrahim Adil Shah: He was at first in the service of Nizam Shah of Ahmednagar, and held a principal command; he afterwards joined the Moguls, then transferred his assistance to Mohammed Adil Shah for a season, but returned to Ahmednagar, aspired to the regency, and set up a prince of the Nizam Shahi dynasty. In this character he was in alliance with the Sultan of Beejapore, and equally the object of the hostility of Shah Jehan. The power of the Emperor being more than he could oppose, he petitioned to be allowed to serve under the Mogul government, but he was told that he might take service with Beejapore. He accordingly passed the remainder of his life as a dependant upon the Beejapore prince, holding the districts of Poona and Sopa. Duff's History of the Mahrattas, vol. I.—W.

and raised contributions in all the neighbouring districts. BOOK III.  
Such was the commencement of the fortunes of Sivajee.<sup>1</sup> CHAP. IV.

Of his ancestry, the following is the account presented to us. His father was the son of Malojee ; and Malojee was the son of Bauga Bonsla, a son of the Rana of Odi-poor, by a woman of an inferior caste.<sup>2</sup> The degradation of Bauga Bonsla, from the impurity and baseness of his birth, drove him to seek, among strangers, that respect which he was denied at home. He served, during a part of his life, a Raja, possessing a Zemindaree in the province of Kandesh ; and afterwards purchased for himself a Zemindaree in the neighbourhood of Poonah, where he resided till his death. His son Malojee entered the service of a Mahratta chief, in which he acquired so much distinction as to obtain the daughter of his master in marriage for his son. This son was Shahjee, and Sivajee was the fruit of the marriage. But Shahjee, having quarrelled with his father-in-law, repaired to the king of Bejspore, and received an establishment in the Carnatic. He here joined the Polygar of Mudkul in a war upon the Raja of Tanjore ; and having defeated the Raja, the victors quarrelled about the division of the territory. Shahjee defeated the Polygar, took possession of both Mudkul and Tanjore : and having married another wife, by whom he had a son named Ekojee, he left him and his posterity Rajas of Tanjore till they sank into dependants of the East India Company.<sup>3</sup>

1668.

**BOOK III.** When Sivajee, upon the death of Dadajee, seized the  
 enw. tr. Zemindaree of Poonah, his father was too much occupied  
 in the East to be able to interfere. Aurungzeb was at  
 1668. the same moment hastening his preparations for the war  
 with his brothers; and invited Sivajee to join his stand-  
 ards. The short-sighted Hindu insulted his messenger,  
 and reproached Aurungzeb himself with his double trea-  
 son against a king and a father. He improved the interval  
 of distraction in the Mogul empire; took the strong  
 fortress of Rayree, or Rajegur, which he fixed upon as the  
 seat of his government; and added to it Porundeh, Jegnch,  
 and several districts dependent on the king of Beejapore.  
 The threats of that power, now little formidable, restrained  
 not his career of plunder and usurpation. He put to  
 death, by treachery, the Rajah of Jaowlee, and seized his  
 territory and treasure; plundered the rich and manufac-  
 turing city of Kallean; took Madury, Purdhaungur, Raja-  
 pore, Sungarpore, and an island belonging to the Portu-  
 guese. At length, the Beejapore government sent an army,  
 to suppress him. He deceived the general with profes-  
 sions of repentance and offers of submission; stabbed  
 him to the heart at a conference; cut to pieces his army  
 deprived of its leader; and rapidly took possession of the  
 whole region of Kokun or Concan, the country lying be-  
 tween the Ghauts and the sea, from Goa to Daman.

When Aurungzeb, upon the defeat of his rivals, sent Shaista Khan, with the rank of Ameer al Omrah, or head of the Omrahs, to command in the Deccan, the Raja Jesswunt Sing, who had redeemed his treachery in the battle against Shujah, by his subsequent dereliction of the cause of Dara, was invested about the same time with the government of Guzerat. As soon as Aurungzeb had leisure to attend to the progress of Sivajee, the viceroy of Guzerat was commanded to co-operate with the viceroy of the Deccan, in reducing and chastising the Mahratta adventurer. Sivajee could not resist the torrent which

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ment which he had served. The acquisition of Tanjore was made, as the Colonel thinks, not by Shawjee, but after his death by Ekojee his son; and his accom-  
 plice was not the Raja or Polygar of Mudkul, but the Naik of Nadura, which  
 however appears to have been called Mudkul by the Persian historians. Naik  
 and Polygar were Hindu names of governors of districts, who, as often as they  
 dared to assume independence, affected the title of Raja. Naik was a title of  
 inferior dignity to Polygar.

now rolled against him. The strong fortress of Jegueh was taken. The Ameer al Omrah advanced to Poonah, where he took up his residence. Here a band of assassins made their way to his bed in the night. He himself was wounded in the hand, by which he warded off a blow from his head, and his son was slain. The assassins escaped, and Sivajee himself was understood to have been among them. Circumstances indicated treachery; and the suspicions of Shaista Khan fell upon Jesswunt Sing. These two generals were recalled; and after an interval of two years, during which the Prince Mohammed Mauzim, or Shah Aulum, held the government of the Decean, two other generals, Jey Sing and Dilleer Khan, were sent to prosecute the war against the Mahratta chief. Jey Sing was the Raja of Abnir,<sup>1</sup> and Dilleer was a Patan Omrah, and both had obtained high rank as generals in the service of Shah Jehan; and being chosen for their merit as the fittest to guide and enlighten Soliman, when sent against Shujah, were the chiefs whom Aurungzeb had gained to betray their master, and debauch his army.

Before the arrival of these generals, Sivajee had, with great address, surprised and plundered Surat, a city of importance and renown; the chief port of the Mogul empire; and that from which the holy pilgrims commenced their voyage to the tomb of the prophet. The

<sup>1</sup> The mountainous districts, lying between the provinces of Agra and Guzerat, and forming part of the provinces of Malwa and Ajmere, were inhabited by a race of warlike Hindus, named Rajpoots, who, from pride of superior prowess, claimed to be of a higher caste than the mass of other Hindus. They had been divided into three principal Rajashhips; that of Abnir or Ambeer, called afterwards Jeypore and Jyengur, on the borders of Agra; that of Jodejore or Marwar, south-west from Abnir, approaching the centre of Ajmere; and lastly that of Chitore, called also Odeypore, from another city, lying further south. Of these Itajas the most powerful had been the Raja of Chitore, whose distinctive title was Rana. Jesswunt Sing, the Raja of Jodhpore, having married the daughter of the last Rana, had merged those two kingdoms of Rajpoots into one. Mr. Orme seems not to have been aware of the marriage of Jesswunt Sing, and of its effects: as he mentions with some surprise, that the name of the Raja of Chitore nowhere appears in the history of the present transactions. Bernier, Revol. p. 52, 53; Dow, Reign of Shah Jehan, ch. v. p. 212; Scott, ut supra, p. 10; Memoirs of Eradut Khan, p. 18; Rennel's Memoir, Introd. p. cxxxii. To the above nations of Rajpoots should also be added those of Bundela, or Bundelkund, a district between the provinces of Agra and Malwa, extending from Jeyapore, by Gualior and Callinger, as far as Benares. Memoirs of Eradut Khan, p. 17; Rennel, ut supra, p. cxxxii.—M.

For further and more accurate information regarding the states and tribes of Central and Western India, see Malcolm's Central India and Tod's Rajashtan. There is no such name as Abnir in Tod, and it is probably a misreading of Amber. The three principalities are more correctly termed Amber, Marwar and Mewar.—W.

**BOOK III.** operations of the new commanders turned the tide in  
**CHAP. IV.** Mahratta affairs. The armies of Sivajee were driven from  


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 1668. the field ; his country was plundered ; and Poorundeh, a strong fortress, in which he had placed his women and treasures, was besieged. It was reduced to the last extremity, when Sivajee, unarmed, presented himself at one of the outposts of the imperial camp, and demanded to be led to the general. Professing conviction of his folly, in attempting to contend with the Mogul power, he craved the pardon of his disobedience, and offered to the Emperor his services, along with twenty forts, which he would immediately resign. Jey Sing embraced the proposal ; and Sivajee obeyed the imperial order, to wait upon the Emperor at Delhi. Sivajee had offered to conduct the war in Kandahar against the Persians. Had he been received with the honour to which he looked, he might have been gained to the Mogul service, and the empire of the Mahrattas would not have begun to exist. But Aurungzeb, who might easily have despatched, resolved to humble the adventurer. When presented in the hall of audience, he was placed among the inferior Omrahs ; which affected him to such a degree, that he wept and fainted away. He now meditated, and with great address, contrived the means of escape. Leaving his son, a boy, with a Brahmen, whom he knew at Muttra, and who afterwards conducted him safe to his father, he travelled as a pilgrim to Juggernaut, and thence by the way of Hyderabad to his own country.<sup>1</sup>

The Prince Shah Aulum, and the Rajah Jeewunt Sing, were sent to supersede the Raja Jey Sing, who was suspected of an understanding with Sivajee, and died on his way to the imperial presence.<sup>2</sup> The change was favourable to Sivajee ; because Jesswunt Sing, who had but

<sup>1</sup> Scott, *ut supra*, p. 11–17. Mr. Orme, from scattered reports, has stated the circumstances differently. *Historical Frag.* p. 17, &c.

<sup>2</sup> Not without suspicion of poison. Mr. Scott's author, who probably wished to spare Aurungzeb, says, by his moonshee, or secretary (p. 17). Mr. Orme says, by order of Aurungzeb (p. 27). But the Raja was worn out with age and laborious services : and the only poison, perhaps, was the anguish of disgrace. He is praised by the Mohammedan historians as the most eminent, in personal qualities, of all the Hindus they had yet known ; accomplished in Persian and Arabian learning. His successor, of whom more will be heard hereafter, was celebrated for his astronomical learning, and for the observatory which he erected at Jeypore. *Memoirs of Eradut Khan*, p. 18. Note (1) by Scott.

little affection to the imperial service, allowed the war to BOOK III.  
linger, and discontents and jealousies to breed in the CHAP. IV.  
army. Sivajee was not inactive. Immediately upon his \_\_\_\_\_  
arrival he took royal titles, and struck coins in his name. 1671-81.  
His troops, in consequence of his previous arrangements,  
had been well kept on foot during his absence ; and he  
attacked immediately the Mogul territories and forts.  
Surat was again plundered ; he recovered all the forts  
which he had resigned, and added some new districts to  
his former possessions.

**BOOK III.** self was recalled. An Omrah, titled Bahadur Khan,<sup>1</sup> succeeded him; and retained the government till the year 1676. During these years, the war produced no remarkable event, though it was prosecuted with considerable activity, and without intermission. The efforts of the Viceroy were divided and weakened by hostilities with Beejapore and Golconda; which, though they had contributed to the fall of those languishing states, had aided the rising power of Sivajee. In 1677, that chieftain affected to enter into an alliance with the King of Golconda against the King of Beejapore and the Moguls; and marched into the territory of Golconda at the head of an army of 40,000 horse. He proceeded to make conquests with great appearance of fidelity; but placed Mahratta governors in all the fortresses, and enriched himself by plunder. He obtained possession of the impregnable fortress of Gingee by treachery. He laid siege to Vellore, which defended itself during more than four months. An interview took place between Sivajee and Ekojee, the latter of whom, perceiving the insatiable appetite of his brother for power, trembled for his dominions. Before he had time, however, to conquer everything to the north of the Coleroon, he was recalled to his western dominions.<sup>2</sup> Dilleer Khan, who succeeded Bahadur, carried on the war in a similar manner, and was superseded by Bahadur, who received the command anew, in 1681. The most remarkable occurrence, during the administration of Dilleer, was the arrival in his camp of the son of Sivajee, who had incurred the displeasure of his father, and fled for protection to the Moguls. The event was regarded as fortunate, and a high rank was bestowed upon the young Mahratta; but Sivajee soon found means to regain his confidence, and he had the good fortune to make his escape a little time before his father terminated his indefatigable and extraordinary career.

During all the time of these great and multiplied transactions, a naval war, which we hear of for the first time

<sup>1</sup> His proper titles were Khan-Jehan-Bahádar Kokaltash—though called by Scott, Baladar Khan.—W.

<sup>2</sup> This expedition into the Carnatic is noticed by Scott, *ut supra*, p. 82; by Orme, *Hist. Frag.* p. 82—87. Col. Wilks, however, (*ch. iii. ut supra*) has given the most distinct account, and is here followed,

in the history of India, was carried on between Sivajee BOOK III.  
and his enemies. At the commencement of his exploits, CHAP. IV.  
a chief, distinguished by the name of Siddee Jore, had —————  
the government of the town of Dunda Rajapore, a sea-  
port to the southward of Bombay, belonging to the King  
of Beejapore ; and at the same time, the command of the  
fleet, which that sovereign had formed to protect his  
maritime dominions and their trade from the naval ene-  
mies which now infested the coasts of India. While  
Siddee Jore was endeavouring to signalize himself against  
Sivajee in another quarter, that ingenious adventurer ar-  
rived unexpectedly at Dunda Rajapore, and obtained pos-  
session of it by a stratagem. The loss of this important  
place so enraged the king against Sidde Jore that he  
procured his assassination. At the time of the capture  
of Dunda Rajapore, however, the heir of Siddeo Jore was  
in the command of the fleet, which lay at the fortified  
island of Gingerah, before the town. When the outrage  
was committed upon his father by the King of Beejapore,  
he tendered his services to Aurungzeb, with the fort of  
Gingerah, and the whole of the Beejapore fleet. The  
offer, of course, was greedily accepted. Siddee, it appears,  
was a name, which was applied in common to those Abys-  
sinian adventurers, who had passed over, in great numbers,  
from their own country into the service of the kings of  
the Deccan ; and had there frequently engrossed a great  
proportion of the principal offices of state. Of this class  
of men was the admiral who had now enlisted himself in  
the Mogul service. He was joined by a great number of  
his family and countrymen. He himself was called *the*  
Siddee, by way of distinction ; his principal officers had  
the term Siddee prefixed to their names ; and his crews  
and followers were in general denominated the Siddees.  
They carried on an active warfare along the whole western  
coast of India, and were not only dangerous and trouble-  
some enemies to Sivajee, but formidable even to the  
British and other European traders, who frequented the  
coast.<sup>1</sup>

Sivajee breathed his last in his fortress of Rayree, on  
the 5th of April, 1682, of an inflammation in his chest,  
at the early age of fifty-two ; having displayed a fertility

<sup>1</sup> Orme's Hist. Frag. p. 2 to 11, 79 to 81.

**BOOK III.** of invention, adapted to his ends ; and a firmness of mind  
**CHAP. IV.** in the pursuit of them, which have seldom been equalled,  


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 probably never surpassed. With the exception of the  
 1682. few small districts possessed by the Europeans, his do-  
 minions, at the time of his death, comprehended, along  
 the western coast of India, an extent of about 400 miles in  
 length by 120 in breadth, and from the river Mirzeou in the  
 south to Versal in the north. Of the detached forts, which  
 at one time he had garrisoned in the Carnatic, only one  
 or two appear to have at this time remained in his hands.<sup>1</sup>

During these transactions in the south, we are not in-  
 formed of any other emergency which called the attention  
 of Aurungzeb from the ordinary details of his adminis-  
 tration, excepting a war with the Patans or Afghans,  
 who infested the northern provinces, and another, which  
 the Emperor himself provoked, with the Rajpoots of Ajmere  
 and Malwa.

The Governor of Peshawur, to punish an incursion of  
 the Patans, had, in 1673, pursued them to their mountains,  
 where he allowed himself to be entangled in the defiles,  
 and was cut off with his whole army. A Patan, who had  
 served in the armies of Sultan Shujah, and bore a strong  
 resemblance to his person, gave birth to a report, that the  
 Sultan had made his escape from Arrancan. The Patans  
 proclaimed him King of India ; and all the tribes of that  
 people were summoned to join their forces to place him  
 upon his throne. They were able, it is said, had they  
 united, to bring into the field 150,000 men ; and Aurung-  
 zeb was roused by the magnitude of the danger. He took  
 the field in person, and crossed the Indus, about the close  
 of the year 1674. The war lasted for about fifteen months,  
 during which the Patans were driven from the more ac-  
 cessible country ; and Aurungzeb was too cautious to  
 penetrate among the mountains. A chain of forts was  
 established to restrain them ; and the governor, whom he  
 left at Peshawur, having exerted himself to gain the con-  
 fidence of the Patan chiefs, drew them to an entertainment  
 at that place, and murdered them along with their at-  
 tendants. Though Aurungzeb disowned the action, he  
 obtained not the credit of being averse to it.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ibid p. 133, 134. Wilks says he died in 1690, (ubi supra, p. 91.)

<sup>2</sup> Orme's Hist. Frag. p. 68—72.

It is probable that Aurungzeb, from political motives, BOOK III.  
 projected the reduction of the Rajpoot states, viewing with CHAP. IV.  
 jealousy the existence of so great an independent power  
 (able, it is said, to bring 200,000 men into the field), in the  
 heart of his dominions. He put on, however, the mask of  
 religion, and began the execution of a project, or pretended  
 project, for the forcible conversion of the Hindus to the  
 religion of the faithful. Jesswunt Sing, the Maharaja, or  
 Groat Raja, as he was called,<sup>1</sup> having died, near Kabul, in  
 1681, his children, on their return to their native country,  
 were ordered to be conducted to court, where he insisted  
 on their being rendered Mohammedans. Their Rajpoot  
 attendants contrived their escape, and fled with them to  
 their own country. The Emperor revenged the disobedience  
 by a war, which he conducted in person. His numer-  
 ous forces drove the Rajpoots from the more accessible  
 parts of their difficult country ; but they held possession  
 of their mountains and fastnesses ; and the war degene-  
 rated into a tedious and ineffectual struggle. Aurungzeb  
 sat down at Ajmere, where he superintended, at a less in-  
 convenient distance, the operations in the Deccan, as well  
 as the war with the Rajpoots.<sup>2</sup>

Samba, or Sambajee, the eldest son of Sivajee, succeeded  
 to his throne, but not without a competitor, in a younger  
 brother, whose adherents created him considerable danger,  
 till the principal among them were all put to death. While  
 the war was carried on between the Mahratta and the im-  
 perial generals in the Deccan, as it had been for several  
 years, by sudden inroads on the one side, and pursuit on  
 the other ; but with few important advantages on either ;  
 Akbar, one of the younger sons of Aurungzeb, who was  
 employed in the war against the Rajpoots, turned his  
 standards against his fathor, being offered assistance by  
 the enemy whom he was sent to subdue. One of Aurung-  
 zeb's tried artifices, that of raising jealousy between asso-  
 ciates, enabled him to defeat the first attempt of Akbar,  
 who fled from the country of the Rajpoots, and took refuge  
 with Sambajee.

Both Sambajee and Aurungzeb knew the value of the

<sup>1</sup> The title was not peculiar to Jesswunt Sing. Every Hindu prince or Raja takes also the epithet of Mahá-rája.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Scott's Operations of Aurungzeb in the Deccan, p. 53. Orme, ut supra, p. 100—105, and 119—121.

BOOK III. acquisition. The prince was received with extraordinary honour, by the Mahratta chief, who would not sit in his char. iv. presence. And Aurungzeb, resolving to extinguish the enemy who had so long troubled his government in the south, arrived with a vast army at Aurungabad, in 1654. After the attack and defence of some forts, with no important result, the prince Shah Aulum was sent into the Concan, to reduce the Mahratta fortresses on the sea-coast. He found it impossible to procure provisions; the climate disagreed with the Mogul troops, and he was obliged to return with only a remnant of his army.<sup>1</sup>

In 1657, the Emperor resolved upon the final reduction of the Mohammedan kingdoms of the Deccan, Hyderabad or Golconda, and Beejapore, which displayed a greater residue of strength and resources, than their reduced condition had led him to expect. From Ahmednuggur, where the grand camp had already arrived, he moved as far as Sholapore, and sent one army towards Hyderabad, another towards Beejapore.

The general, who led the army of the King of Hyderabad, betrayed his trust, and passed over to the enemy, upon which the King abandoned the open country, and shut himself up in the fort of Golconda. Hyderabad was taken and plundered. That the Sultan Mauzim, however, who commanded, might not have the honour, which he was wise enough not to covet, of taking Golconda, Aurungzeb accepted the humble terms which were offered by the King, and reserved his destruction till another opportunity.

Beejapore made considerable resistance, which was aided by scarcity. After the city had been besieged for some time, the Emperor proceeded to the attack in person. Famine at last compelled the garrison to surrender; and the young King was delivered into the hands of Aurungzeb.<sup>2</sup>

He received, about the same time, intelligence of another agreeable event, the departure of Sultan Akbar, from the Mahratta country to Persia. As this lessened greatly, in the eyes of Aurungzeb, the importance of immediate operations against the Mahrattas, he turned from Beejapore

<sup>1</sup> Scott, ut supra, p. 51—64; Orme Hist. Frag. p. 134—162.

<sup>2</sup> Scott, ut supra, p. 65—73.

towards Golconda. Shah Aulum, with his sons, was seized **BOOK III.**  
and put in confinement, for remonstrating, it is said, **CHAP. IV.**  
against the treachery aimed at the unfortunate King of  
Golconda, who had submitted under pledge of honour to  
himself. Aurungzeb, in truth, was incurably jealous of his  
son, because heir to his throne, and was stimulated to ease  
his mind of a part of its load of terror and distrust. Gol-  
conda was invested, and, after a siege of seven months, fell  
by that treachery, the benefit of which Aurungzeb made  
it his constant endeavour to procure. He had now the  
two sovereigns of the Deccan in his hands, and the reduc-  
tion of the outstanding forts was all that remained to com-  
plete the extension of the Mogul dominion to the farthest  
limit of the Carnatic.<sup>1</sup>

This important success was immediately followed by an event which the Emperor regarded as peculiarly fortunate. His spies brought intelligence, that Sambajee, at one of his forts in the mountains not far distant, was spending his time in a round of his favourite pleasures, and very imperfectly on his guard. A body of troops was despatched to surprise him, and he was, in fact, taken prisoner. Sambajee was too formidable to be permitted to live; but the Emperor polluted his fortune by glutting his eyes with the butchery of his enemy, who relaxed not his haughtiness in the presence of death. The efficacy of Sambajee's talents, which were not inconsiderable, was obstructed by his immoderate passion for women, which his father predicted would lead him to his ruin.

The Emperor followed up his advantage with activity, and immediately sent an army into the Concan. Its operations were highly successful; and Rayree, which Sambajee and his father had made their capital, together with the wives and infant son of that chieftain, fell into the hands of the victor.<sup>2</sup>

Rama, however, the brother of Sambajee, escaped from the Concan, and, crossing by the way of Seringapatam to

<sup>1</sup> The greatest part of the Carnatic had belonged to the Rajas of Beejanugger, in the flourishing state of that empire. After the reduction of that state by the Mohammedan powers of the Deccan, it was divided between the states of Golconda and Beejaporo. Aurungzebe's Operations in the Deccan, Scott, p. 73, 74, 75. Orme, p. 119—130.

<sup>2</sup> Scott, ut suprn, p. 77—80; Orme, p. 230—234. Wilks (p. 215) says it was taken in 1698.

BOOK III. the Carnatic, threw himself into the fort of Gingee, which  
CHAP. IV. was a place of great strength, and by the obstinacy of its  
resistance, or the interested delays of the imperial gene-  
rals, retarded the settlement of the Deccan for several  
1700-07. years. It gave occupation to a great part of the imperial army from the year 1692 to the year 1700 ; and during that period kept the reduction of the Carnatic incomplete.

The Emperor turned his whole attention to the final subjugation of the Mahrattas, and penetrated into the country with his principal army. But while he was employed in the reduction of forts, the Mahrattas, under various chiefs, issued from their mountains, and spreading over the newly-conquered countries of Beejapore and Golconda, and even the provinces of Berar, Kandesh, and Malwa, carried great plunder back with them, and left devastation behind. The imperial forces marched to oppose them in all directions, and easily conquered them in battle when they could bring them to an action. But the Mahrattas eluded rencounter, retired to their mountains when pursued, hung upon the rear of their enemy when obliged to return, and resumed their devastations whenever they found the country cleared of the troops which opposed them. The Emperor persevered with great obstinacy in besieging the forts in the accessible parts of the Mahratta country ; the greater part of which fell into his hands. But during that time the Mahrattas so enriched themselves by plundering the imperial dominions, and so increased in multitude and power, being joined by vast numbers of the Zemindars in the countries which they repeatedly overran, that the advantages of the war were decidedly in their favour, and the administration of Aurungzeb betrayed the infirmities of age. The more powerful Omrahs, who maintained numerous troops, and were able to chastise invaders, his jealous policy made him afraid to trust with the command of provinces. He made choice of persons without reputation and power, who abandoning the defence of their provinces, to which they were unequal, were satisfied with enriching themselves by the plunder of the people. Under so defective a government, the Mahrattas found the whole country south from the Nerbudda open to their incursions. The Emperor persevered in his attempts to subdue them. In

that harassing and unavailing struggle were the years consumed which intervened till his death. This event took place in the camp at Ahmednuggur on the 21st of February, 1707, in the forty-eighth year of his reign, and ninety-fourth of his age.<sup>1</sup>

BOOK III.

CHAP. IV.

1707.

At the time when the last illness of Aurungzeb commenced, his eldest son Mohammed Mauzim, who at an early age had received the title of Shah Aulum, was at Kabul, of which, as a distant province where he would be least dangerous, he was made governor, upon his liberation from the confinement in which he had languished for several years. His two remaining sons, Azim Shah, who was subahdar of Guzerat, and his youngest son Kam Buksh, who had been recently appointed to the government of Beejapore, were both in the camp. Aurungzeb, who forgot not his caution to the last, hurried them away to their stations, either fearing lest under his weakness they should seize upon his person while yet alive, or lest they should fill the camp with bloodshed immediately upon his dissolution. Azim had not yet reached his province, when he received the news of the Emperor's decease. He hurried back to the camp, and no competitor being present, received without difficulty the obedience of the army.

**BOOK III.** ther, offering to divide the kingdom. The presumptuous  
**CHAR. IV.** prince rejected the proposal ; and the armies came to  


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 action, when Azim Shah lost the battle, and he and his  
 1707. two eldest sons lost their lives. He had committed many  
 important errors ; among others offended the general-  
 issimo, the famous Zulfikar Khan, the favourite general of  
 Aurungzeb, and son of Assud Khan, his vizir. He rejected  
 the advice of this commander at the commencement of  
 the battle, and Zulfikar with his forces withdrew from  
 the field.<sup>1</sup>

Shah Aulum, who now assumed the title of Bahadur  
 Shah, was chiefly indebted to the prudence and wisdom  
 of Monaim Khan, his minister of finance, for his victory  
 and throne. He rewarded him with the office of vizir ;  
 but Assud Khan, the late vizir, and Zulfikar Khan, his  
 son, were received with extraordinary favour, the former  
 being created Vakeel Mutluk ;<sup>2</sup> the latter Meer Bukshi ;<sup>3</sup>  
 and governor of all the Deccan, with the title of Ameer ul  
 Omrah.

Another contest, however, still remained. The throne  
 was promised to Kâm Buksh by his own vanity, and by  
 his astrologers ; and though his brother, even when near  
 him with an irresistible army, invited him to enjoy in  
 peace his kingdom of Beejapore, to which he offered to add  
 that of Golconda, the infatuated prince was resolved upon  
 his destruction. It had been the object of his father to  
 render him, by his power in Beejapore, safe from the  
 jealousy of any of his brothers who might ascend the im-  
 perial throne. For this purpose, he had placed in his ser-  
 vice the Turanee Moguls, or that part of the army which  
 consisted of the Mogul adventurers, newly arrived from  
 Tartary, and distinguished from those who had been bred  
 in Hindustan. The chief of these Moguls was Ghazees ad  
 Din Khan, a man of great years and experience, who had  
 acquired high reputation and influence in the Deccan  
 during the wars of Aurungzeb. The light, inconsiderate,  
 rash, and inconstant character of Kâm Buksh would have

<sup>1</sup> The reign of Shah Aulum is related by two Persian noblemen, both cotem-  
 parny with the events, Eradut Khan, (Mem. p. 11—64,) and Golam Husseln  
 Khan, Seer Mutskhareen, p. 1—23.

<sup>2</sup> This was the highest office in an Indian government, and seldom  
 bestowed unless on some great emergency. Scott, Memoirs of Eradut Khan,  
 p. 46.

<sup>3</sup> Chief paymaster ; an office of great trust and dignity. Ibid.

discovered to a less discerning mind than that of Ghazee, BOOK III.  
 the speedy ruin of that prince's hopes ; he therefore lis- CHAP. IV.  
 tened to the friendly proposals of the Emperor, and was appointed Subahdar of Guzerat, while his son Cheen Koolich Khan, a man of great celebrity in the subsequent history of India, was favourably received at court. Kam Buksh was gradually deserted by almost all his followers, but rushed desperately into battle near Hyderabad with not more than a few hundred attendants. He was taken prisoner, but not till he received a mortal wound, of which he died the same evening.

The Emperor seemed afraid of becoming, like his father, entangled in the labyrinth of Deccanee affairs ; and leaving to his officers whatever remained for the settling of those newly-conquered regions, he began his march towards the capital, though in the middle of the rains. Zulfikar Khan, the subahdar of the Deccan, left Daood Khan Punnee, a native of the Deccan, his deputy ; and followed his master, still further to push his ambitious designs.

The Emperor was not satisfied with the Rajpoot princes, whose disobedience had been provoked by the religious and mischievous war kindled against them at the end of the reign of Aurungzeb. Ajeet Sing, the successor of Jesswunt Sing, Raja of Odeypore ; and Jey Sing, the successor of the Raja who had rendered himself famous in the wars of Aurungzeb, had formed an alliance, cemented by marriage ; and without professing independence of the Mogul power, endeavoured to yield a very limited obedience. Some unavailing measures were taken to reduce them to more perfect subjection. But a new enemy, whose operations began to be serious, and even formidable, rendered it advisable to accept for the present the nominal obedience of the Rajpoots.

The Seiks, now ravaging the province of Lahore and the northern part of the province of Delhi, committing outrages on the persons of the Moslem, inflamed both the religious and political indignation of the Emperor and his Omrahs. This people, of whom the history is curious, were advancing rapidly to that importance, which renders them at present one of the principal powers in Hindustan. Their origin is to be traced back to the time of the Emperor Baber, when a celebrated Durvesh, being captivated

MOIZ UL OMRAH. Shah Aulum had reigned five years, counting from the  
 death of Aurungzeb, with the praise of great humanity,  
 having spilt the blood of no rival but in the field, and  
 1712. treating the sons of his rebel brothers like his own ; when he was seized with a violent illness, and expired suddenly in his camp, near Lahore, in the year 1712.

The four sons of Shah Aulum, each with his army and retainers, were in the camp ; Moiz ad Dien Khan, the eldest ; Azim oos Shaan, the second, the favourite of his father ; Russel oos Shirin, the third ; and Kojeckh Akter, the youngest. Of all the Omrahs, the vizir Monzum Khan being dead, Zulfikar Khan was by far the most powerful ; and doubted not to place on the musnud any of the princes whose cause he should espouse. Azim oos Shaan, who had in the camp a large treasure of his own, and from his situation near his father was enabled to possess himself of all the imperial treasure and effects, assumed the sceptre without hesitation. Zulfikar Khan sent to him a confidential messenger, to ask if, in that emergency, he could render him any service ; and receiving a careless and disdainful answer, took his resolution. He passed to the camp of Moiz ad Dien, and formed or confirmed a union of the three brothers, who agreed to oppose Azim oos Shaan, and afterward to divide the empire. Azim oos Shaan lost the favourable opportunity of attacking his brothers. He allowed the time to pass, till they made their preparations ; and till his own army, becoming uneasy and dispirited, began to disperse. When the inevitable hour arrived, he was conquered without much difficulty, and disappeared in the battle ; his wounded elephant, it is supposed, rushed with him down the precipice into the river, where both sunk to appear no more.

To the surviving princes it remained to settle the partition on which they had agreed ; but Zulfikar Khan had other designs. Whether from selfish motives, or a patriotic dread of the consequences of division ; whether because that prince was the weakest, and might be governed, or the oldest, and had the better title, the Ameer ul Omrah resolved to make Moiz ad Dien sole Emperor, and to defeat the expectations of the other two. By various artifices, creating difficulties and delay, he contrived to secure the greater part of the treasure to Moiz

ad Dien. This roused the jealousy of Kojesteh Akter, and BOOK III. he prepared for action ; but the night before the projected CHAP. IV. battle a fire broke out in his camp, and he lost the greater part of his ammunition. He and his son fought with gallantry, but his soldiers deserted him during the engagement, and gave an easy victory to his more fortunate brother. Ruffeh oos Shaun stood aloof during this action ; still confiding in the friendship of Zulfikar Khan, and reserving himself to fall upon the victor. While he waited with impatience for the morning, having been dissuaded from attacking the successful army the same night, intelligence of his design was carried to the Ameer ul Omrah, who made preparations to receive him. The victory was not a moment doubtful ; for the army of the prince almost immediately dispersed, and he was slain, fighting bravely amid a few attendants.<sup>1</sup>

Moiz ad Dien was proclaimed Emperor, with the title of Jehandar Shah. He possessed not abilities to redeem the weaknesses by which he exposed himself to the disapprobation of his people ; and his government and person fell into contempt. He was governed by a concubine, who had belonged to the degraded and impure profession of public dancers, and shed infamy upon the man with whom she was joined. The favours of the crown were showered upon the mean relations, and ancient companions of Lall Koor (such was the name of the mistress), who did not always enjoy them with moderation. The Emperor, who loved the jollity of debauch, exposed himself about the city in company with Lall Koor and her favourites, in situations where dignity was apt to be lost. The nobles were offended, because a new set of favourites intercepted the rays of imperial favour ; and the people were disgusted at the sight of vices in their sovereign, which shed degradation on the meanest of themselves.

Jehandar Shah was, from these causes, ill prepared to meet the storm which shortly after he was summoned to face. When Azim oos Shaun marched from Bengal to assist his father in the struggle for the crown, he left behind him his son Ferokhsr. Upon the defeat of Azim

<sup>1</sup> Eradut Khan, (Memoirs, p. 65—67,) and Golam Hussein Khan, (Seer Mutahareen, i. 23—36,) agree in the general points of this struggle for the crown ; the former describing it like an eye-witness, but not a very curious one ; the other from report merely, but not without diligence and criticism.



followers remained alone. Not despairing to rally the BOOK III army, and renew the action on the following day, he CHAP. IV. despatched messengers in all directions, but in vain, to ——————  
1713. search for the Emperor during the night. That unhappy prince had taken the road in disguise toward Delhi, of which Assud Khan, the father of Zulfikar, was governor. After intelligence of his arrival, the friends of the late Azim oos Shaun surrounded his palace, and demanded the custody of his person. To quiet their clamours, or to lay a foundation of merit with the future sovereign, Assud Khan placed him in confinement ; and wrote to Ferokhser that he waited for his commands to dispose of the prisoner. So gracious an answer was received, as dissipated the fears of Assud Khan, and enabled him to prevail upon his son, who had arrived at Delhi, to trust himself in the hands of Ferokhser. The credulity of Zulfikar deceived him ; for he might have escaped to his government of the Deccan, where his talents would have enabled him to set the imperial power at defiance. He was strangled by order of Ferokhser, and his dead body was exposed about the streets of Delhi, at the same time with that of his master, Jehandar Shah.<sup>1</sup>

Ferokhser began his reign in the year 1713, with the usual performances of an Oriental despot ; that is, the murder of all who were the objects of his apprehension. After this the two Syeds, to whom he owed both his life and his throne, were elevated ; Hussun to the post of Bukshi, or paymaster of the forces, with the title of Ameer ul Omrah ; and Abdoola to that of Vizir, with the title of Koottub al Mulk, or axis of the state. Cheen Kulich Khan, the son of Ghazee ad Din Khan, who was chief of the Tooranees Moguls in the Deccan at the end of the reign of Aurungzeb, was known to have lived on adverse terms with Zulfikar Khan ; and by this circumstance, as well as by the weight which was attached to his reputation for talents, and his connexion with the Tooranees lords, was recommended to the attention of the new government. He was appointed to the regency or subordnary of the

<sup>1</sup> The Memoirs of Ibrahim Khan furnish with the reign of Jehandar Shah. He describes the scenes with the knowledge of an eye-witness, but with much favor to Jehandar Shah or Zulfikar, the victims of the severity or cruelty of the others under whom he wrote, and whom it was difficult to offend. Giardino Hosseini is more candid and more disengaged. See Houghton, 1. 42—52.

**BOOK III.** Deccan, and decorated with the title of Nizam al Mulk, or  
**CHAP. IV.** composer of the state;<sup>1</sup> a common title, which he rendered  


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 1710. remarkable, in the modern history of India, by transmitting  
 it to his posterity, and along with it a kingdom, in  
 that very region which he was now sent, and but for a  
 little time, to superintend.

Ferokhsir was a weak prince, governed by favourites. The two Syeds had laid such obligations upon their sovereign, and possessed such power, chiefly from the inconsiderate cruelty of Ferokhsir, who had killed Zulfikar and others by whom they might have been restrained, that they could brook neither rival nor partner in disposing of the state. Their chains soon became heavy on Ferokhsir. Aware of his impatience, they made such efforts to render themselves secure against the effects of his malice, as embroiled the state from the very commencement of his reign.

The first of the contrivances of Emir Jumla (this was the name of the favourite, a man who had formerly been Kauzy at Dacca), was to separate the brothers, under the pretence of honourable employment. The Raja Ajeet Sing, whom we have already mentioned as the successor of Jesswunt Sing, in that district or division of Rajpootana which was known by the name of Marwar or Rhatore,<sup>2</sup> and of which Chitore and Odeypore had been successively the capitals, had stood out against the operations of Aurungzeb, and remained in a state little short of independence, during the reigns of Shah Aulum and Jehandar Shah. Hussun, the Ameer al Omrah, was required to undertake the reduction of the rebellious Hindu. He marched with so great a force that the Raja deemed it better to yield than contend; and though he received private encouragements from the court, where he was assured that opposition would be gratefully considered, he concluded an agreement with Hussun, impatient to return to the capital, where his brother's letters assured him, that designs were ripening for their common destruction.

Though Abdoola, the Vizir, had talents and other eminent qualities; he was so addicted to women and other

<sup>1</sup> Rather, regulator or governor of the state.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Rhatore is the name, not of the country, but of the Rajput tribe to which the Rajas of Marwar belong.—W.

pleasures, that he neglected business ; and let the affairs BOOK III.  
of his high office devolve into subordinate hands, whose CHAP. VI.  
mismanagement shed discredit and unpopularity on him-  
self. His enemies, therefore, enjoyed advantages, which in  
the absence of his brother they were eager to impro-  
Upon the return of Hussum from Marwar, he demanded  
the regency of the Deccan, with a view to govern it by  
deputy, and remain at court ; and he received the appoint-  
ment, in expectation of his being called to that distant  
province by the duties of his trust. When it was found,  
at last, that he had no intention to depart for the Deccan,  
the misunderstanding between the court and the brothers  
became public and undisguised. They forbore attendance  
upon the Emperor; assembled their followers, and fortified  
themselves in their palaces; while the weak and timid  
Ferokhsir, who desired, without daring to attempt, their  
destruction, formed and abandoned twenty resolutions in  
a day. After a period of anxiety and alarm, a reconcilia-  
tion was effected by mediation of the Empress-mother,  
who was favourable to the Syeds, and by whom, it is said,  
that intelligence was sometimes conveyed to them of the  
plots by which their lives were essayed. The argument  
was, that Meer Jumla, being appointed to the government  
of Bahar, should depart for that province, at the same  
time that the Ameer al Omrah should proceed to the  
Deccan.<sup>1</sup>

Hussun told the Emperor, that if mischief were aimed  
at his brother, he would in twenty days be in the capital  
from the Deccan. The first danger, however, regarded  
himself. Daood Khan Punnee, the Afghan, who had been  
left deputy by Zulfikar, and obtained the province of  
Guzerat, upon the appointment of Nizam al Mulk to the  
regency of the Deccan, was ordered to Boorahapore,  
ostensibly to wait upon the Subahdar of the Deccan, and  
receive his commands ; but with secret instructions to

<sup>1</sup> Before the departure of Hussun, the marriage of the Emperor was cele-  
brated with the daughter of Maharaja Aject Sing, stipulated for, in the condi-  
tions lately imposed by Hussun upon the Raja. She had been conveyed from  
her father's palace to that of Hussun, as her adopted father, who graced her  
nuptials with a magnificence which surpassed all that hitherto had been seen  
in Hindustan.

An indisposition of the Emperor, rather inconvenient at the time of a mar-  
riage, cured by a medical gentleman of the name of Hamilton, is said to have  
been the cause of obtaining the first firman of free trade for the East India  
Company. Scott's Successors of Aurungzebe, p. 139.

**BOOK III.** ~~CHAP. IV.~~ recall the Syed and cut him off. Great expectations were entertained of the Afghan, who, being a man of prodigious bodily strength, great courage, and not devoid of conduct, had risen to the highest repute as a warrior. It is not unworthy of remark, that he had associated with himself a Mahratta chief, named Neemajee Sindia, who had been taken into the imperial service by Shah Aulum, however with a high rank, and gifted with several jarts in the vicinity of Aurungabad. Hurran had a severe conflict to sustain; and had not a matchlock ball struck Daud, at the moment when the advantage seemed hastening to his side, the day might have been fatal to the fortune of the brothers. When the Emperor heard of the failure of his project, he could not, even in the presence of Abdulla, suppress his chagrin; and observed that Daud was a brave man unworthily used. Abdulla replied, that if his brother had fallen the victim of perfidy, the imperial mind would have experienced more agreeable sensations.

About this time, Banda, the patriarch and captain of the Seiks, fell into the hands of his enemies. He had soon collected his followers, after they were dispersed by Shah Aulum, and spread more widely his depredations and authority in the contiguous provinces. The Subahdar of Lahore had been sent against him, shortly after the accession of Ferokhsir; but was defeated with great slaughter. The Faujdar, or military and judicial chief of Sirhind, was next commanded to take the field; but was assassinated in his tent by a Seik, especially commissioned for that purpose. The governor of Kashmire was then removed to the government of Lahore, and appointed to act against the heretics or infidels, with a great army. After many severo engagements, Banda was driven to seek refuge in a fort; where famine at last compelled him to surrender. Great cruelty was exercised upon his followers; and he himself was carried to the capital, where he was ignominiously exposed, and afterwards put to death by torture.

It would be useless and disgusting to describe the scenes to which the hatred of the Emperor, and the jealousy of the Vizir, gave birth in the capital. When the Ameer al Omrah arrived in the Deccan, he found the power of the Mahrattas arrived at a height which was not only oppressive to the provinces, but formidable to the imperial

throne. Sahoo Raja, or Sahojee, the son of Sambajee, had succeeded to the authority of his father and grandfather, as the head of the Mahrattas, and had, during the distractions in the Mogul empire, experienced little resistance in extending the sphere of his domination and exactions. Towards the close of the reign of Aurungzeb, the widow of Rama, the brother of Sambajee, who during the minority of Sakogee, enjoyed a temporary authority, had offered to put a stop to all the predatory incursions of the Mahrattas, underwhich the imperial provinces in the Deccan so cruelly suffered, on condition of receiving a tenth part, which they call Desmukhee, of the revenues of the six provinces which composed the viceroyalty of the Deccan. The pride of Aurungzeb revolted at the humiliating condition ; and the offer was rejected with scorn.<sup>1</sup> Daood Khan Punnee, however, who governed the country, as deputy to Zulfikar, during the reigns of Shah Aulum and Jehandar, and who cultivated the friendship, rather than the enmity, of the Mahrattas, agreed to purchase deliverance from their incursions by the payment of even the chout, or fourth part of the revenues of the Deccane provinces, reserving only such districts as were held in jagheer by any princes of the blood royal, and excluding the Mahrattas from the collection, which was to be performed by his own officers alone. Upon the arrival of Nizam al Mulk as Viceroy of the Deccan, the chout gave rise to dispute and hostilities ; in which the Viceroy gained a battle, and might have further checked the pretensions of the freebooters, had he not been recalled, after enjoying the government one year and some months. The Ameer al Omrah sent a force to dislodge a Mahratta chief who had established a chain of mud forts along the road from Surat to Boorahanpore ; and by means of them plundered or levied a tax upon the merchants who trafficked between the two cities. The commander allowed himself to be drawn by the wily Mahratta into a place of difficulty ; where he and the greater part of his soldiers lost their lives. A still stronger force

<sup>1</sup> In the first instance these claims had been made by Sivaji, and were confined to the district dependant on Bijapur. Aurungzeb tacitly recognised them on the occasion of the treaty into which he entered with Sivaji, and although that treaty was not long unviolated, the recognition formed the basis of the similar claims subsequently extended to other provinces.—Duff, Mahrattas, 210.—W.

... sent to dislodge the plunderer, who declined an action, and was followed by the imperial general as far as Sattara, residence of Sahojee. But before Sattara was besieged, the Ameer al Omrah, understanding that danger was increasing at Delhi, and that even Sahojee had received encouragement from the Emperor to effect his destruction, resolved, on any terms, to free himself from the difficulties and embarrassment of a Mahratta war. He not only granted the chout, but he added to it the desmukhee ; nay, admitted the Mahratta agents, with a respectable force at Aurungabad, to perform the collection of their own portion of the taxes. The provinces were thus freed from the ravages of military incursion ; but the people were oppressed by three sets of exactors, one for the imperial revenue, one for the chout, another for the desmukhee.<sup>1</sup>

Meanwhile a new favourite had risen at court, recommended to the Emperor by a double tie, a fellowship in disreputable pleasures, and promises to cut off the Syeds without the danger of a contest. By his advice, the most powerful chiefs in the empire were invited to court ; Nizam al Mulk, from his government of Morâdabad ; Sir-bullund Khan, from that of Patna ; and the Rajpoot princes, Jey Sing of Amber or Jagenagur ; and the father-in-law of the Emperor, Ajeet Sing of Rhatore. Had these chiefs perceived a prospect of sharing among themselves the grand posts of the empire, they would have undertaken the destruction of the Syeds ; but they found the despicable Ferokhsir so infatuated with his unworthy favourite, that he alone was destined to be the organ of power. Ajeet Sing, perceiving the miserable state of the imperial councils, lost no time in uniting himself with the Vizir.

The increasing violence of the councils pursued for the destruction of the Syeds, and the union, which the removal of the favourite would suffice to form against them, of so many powerful chiefs, induced Abdoolah to summon his brother from the Deccan, and to meditate a decisive step. No sooner did the Emperor hear that Hussun was

<sup>1</sup> The circumstances leading to this arrangement, as well as the particulars, are somewhat differently related by Duff. Hist. of the Mahrattas, 444.—W.

in motion, than, struck with apprehension, he solicited BOOK III.  
reconciliation with the Vizir. They exchanged turbans, CHAP. IV.  
and vows of fidelity, which were equally sincere on both  
sides. A messenger of rank was despatched towards Hus-  
sun, to declare the reinstatement of his family in the  
plenitude of imperial favour; while Hussun, giving up to  
the Mahrattas such forts as he could not garrison, pro-  
ceeded to the capital with an army, of which ten thousand  
were Mahrattas; attended by a youth, whom he received  
from Sahojee as a son of Sultan Akbar, and treated with  
all the respect due to a grandson of Aulumgir, and a com-  
petitor for the imperial throne. In the meantime the  
Vizir had found little difficulty in detaching from the  
hopeless cause of the Emperor, Nizam al Mulk, and the  
other chiefs of the intended conspiracy. Jey Sing alone  
adhered to Ferokhser, advising him to take the field in  
person, and, by the weight of the imperial name, bear  
down the cause of rebels and traitors. The pride and the  
resentments of Ferokhser made him incline to violent  
measures during one moment; his fears and pusillanimity  
made him incline to submissive measures the next. After  
an interval, during which these passions violently alter-  
nated in his breast, he threw himself upon the mercy of  
the Syeds, and submitted to all their demands. It is not  
certain that they meant to depose him; but during these  
violent proceedings, tumults arose in the city; Ferokhser  
shut himself up in the women's apartments, and refused  
to come out; his friends and servants took arms; the com-  
motions became alarming, and a moment might be pre-  
dictive of fatal events. After repeated entreaties, the  
Vizir was at last compelled to violate the sanctity of the  
secret apartments; Ferokhser was dragged forth, and put  
in confinement; Ruffeh al Dirjaut, son of Ruffeh al Kud-  
der, a grandson of Aurungzeb by a daughter of Akbar,  
was taken from among the confined princes, and seated on  
the throne; his accession was announced by the sound of  
the nobut, and firing of cannon; and, in a few hours, the  
commotions, which seemed ready to overwhelm the city,  
gave place to tranquillity and order.

Ferokhser was rather more than six years on the throne.  
His successor was labouring under a consumption, and  
died in five months after his exaltation. During this in-

**BOOK III.** Subahdar of Berar, his relation ; by a Mahratta chief, who  
**CHAP. IV.** had quarrelled with Sahojeo ; and by a variety of Zemindars. He encountered and defeated the army which the

**1720.** the brothers had sent to oppose him ; conquered, and slew in battle the governor of Aurungabad, who marched out to meet him : and remained without a rival in the Deccan. The Governor of Dowlatabad held out ; but the Governor of Hyderabad joined him with 7,000 horse. In addition to all these fortunate events, he was encouraged by messages from the court, from Mohammed Ameen Khan, and from the Emperor himself, that his opposition to the Syeds should meet with their support.

The brothers wavered, and permitted time to be lost. Ruttun.Chund recommended, what was probably wise, to gain Nizam al Mulk by resigning to him the Deccan ; and, with vigilance, to guard the rest of the empire. Pride rejected this proposal. It was at last determined that Hussun, accompanied by the Emperor, should proceed with a great army to the Deccan, while Abdoola should remain to guard the capital. The troops were assembled ; the march began, and had continued during four or five days, when Mohammed Ameen Khan conceived his plan to be ripe for execution. He had associated with himself Sadut Khan, afterwards Nabob of Oude, progenitor of the now reigning family ; and another desperado, named Hyder Khan, in a conspiracy, with the privity of the Emperor, to assassinate the Ameer al Omrah. The lot fell upon Hyder to strike the blow. Hussun, who received a mortal stab, had strength to cry, "Kill the Emperor !" but the conspirators had taken measures for his protection ; and, though the nephew of the deceased armed his followers, and endeavoured to penetrate to the Emperor, he was overpowered and slain, while his tents were plundered by the followers of the camp.

The dismal news was speedily conveyed to Abdoola, who was on his march to Delhi. He advanced to that city ; took one of the remaining princes, and proclaimed him Emperor ; found still the means to assemble a large army, and marched out to oppose Mohammed. A great battle was fought at Shahpore ; but the Vizir was vanquished and taken prisoner. The Emperor, after a little more than a year of tutelage, entered his capital in great

pomp and ceremony, and was hailed as if it had been his BOOK III accession to the throne.

CHAP. IV.

1782.

The weakness of Mohammed Shah's administration, whose time was devoted to pleasure, and his mind without discernment and force, was soon felt in the provinces. The Raja, Ajeet Sing, with a view to bind him to the cause of Mohammed, had, through the hands of the Empress-mother, at the time of the accession, received a firman appointing him Governor of Guzerat and Ajmere during life. The grant was now revoked, and Ajeet Sing rebelled. After some vain demonstrations of resentment, the Emperor was obliged to submit to concessions and indulgence.

The Afghans about Peshawur rose in arms; and, after an obstinate engagement, defeated and took prisoner the son of the Governor of the province.

These, and other disorders, were expected to be redressed upon the arrival of Nizam al Mulk, who was invited from the Deccan to receive the office of Vizir. He earnestly exhorted the Emperor to apply his own mind to affairs, and to infuse vigour into government, now relaxed and dissolving, through negligence and corruption. But the pleasantries of his gay companions, who turned the person and the counsels of the old and rigid Vizir into ridicule, were more agreeable to the enervated mind of Mohammed; and the Nizam, in disgust, under pretence of coercing a refractory Governor in Guzerat, withdrew from the capital. Sadut Khan was about the same time appointed Subahdar of Oude.

The Nizam, having reduced to his obedience the province of Guzerat, and taken possession of Malwa, which was also added to his extensive government, paid another visit to the capital, where he found the temper of administration as negligent and dissolute as before. Despairing, or careless of a remedy, and boding nothing but evil, he only thought of securing himself in his extensive dominions; and, under pretence of a hunting excursion, left the capital without leave, and pursued his march to the Deccan. The Emperor, who now both hated and feared him, despatched a private message to the Governor of Hyderabad to oppose and cut him off, with a promise of all his government of the Deccan, as the reward of so meri-

BOOK III. by the plunder of the country. In a short time he was  
CHAP. IV. daring enough to measure swords with the Afghan him-  
self, and prevailed. In 1729, he re-took Ispahan, pursued  
1739. the usurper to Afghanistan itself, vanquished and took him  
prisoner. Thamas, whom he acknowledged as king of  
Persia, he retained in confinement, and, governing in his  
name, turned his arms against the Turks, who had made  
encroachments on the eastern provinces of Persia during  
the declining vigour of the Sophis. Having conducted  
this war with success, he felt his power sufficient to pull  
off the mask. He proclaimed himself King, by the title of  
Nadir Shah, in the year 1736, and put out the eyes of the  
unfortunate Thamas.

The restless and enterprising Afghans, who regretted the loss of Persia, still kept up disturbance on its eastern frontier ; and they provoked the proud and furious Nadir to undertake a war of little less than extermination. Not satisfied with driving them from all the accessible parts of their own country, he made his way into Kandahar, which had for some generations been detached from the Mogul empire, and annexed to that of Persia. Kabul, which already contained a great mixture of Afghans, was now crowded with that people, flying from the cruelties of the foe. Nadir was not soon tired in the pursuit of his prey. He had reason to be dissatisfied with the government of Hindustan, to which he had sent repeated embassies, received with something more than neglect. In the general negligence and corruption which pervaded the whole business of government, the passes from Persia into Kabul were left unguarded. The Persian protested that he meant neither hostility nor disrespect to his brother of Hindustan ; and that, if not molested, he would chastise the accursed Afghans, and retire. The opposition he experienced was, indeed, so feeble, as hardly to excite the resentment of Nadir ; and, after slaughtering the Afghans in Kabul, he was ready to withdraw ; when a circumstance occurred which kindled his rage. A messenger and his escort, whom he had dispatched from Kabul to the Emperor of Delhi, were murdered at Jellalabad by the inhabitants ; and, instead of yielding satisfaction for the injury, the silken courtiers of Mohammed counselled approbation ; and ridiculed supposition of danger from the shepherd and freebooter of Khorasan.

That furious warrior hastened to the offending city, and BOOK III. slaughtered the inhabitants without mercy. From this CHAP. IV. he pursued his route to Peshawur, and thence to Lahore ; ——————  
 at both of which places he experienced but little opposition. He then turned his face directly to the capital, where Mohammed and his counsellors, wrapped in a fatal security, were not prepared to believe that the Persian usurper would dare to march against the Majesty of Hindustan. The Hindostanees army, which had been two months in the field, had only advanced to Karnal, four days' march from Delhi, where it was surprised by the appearance of the enemy, while Mohammed and his friends were yet ignorant of his approach. The hardy and experienced valour of Nadir's bands quickly spread confusion among the ill-conducted crowds of Mohammed. The Ameer al Omrah was mortally wounded, and died after leaving the field of battle. Sadut Khan fought till he was deserted by his followers, and taken prisoner. Nadir, who had no project upon Hindustan, left the disordered camp the next day without an attack; and readily listened to the peaceful counsels of his prisoner, Sadut Khan, who hoped, if now set free, to obtain the vacant office of Ameer al Omrah. Mohammed honoured the Shah with a visit in his camp, and the Shah consented to evacuate Hindustan, upon receipt of two crores of rupees. The insatiable avidity, however, of Nizam al Mulk fatally defeated this happy agreement. He demanded, and was too powerful to be refused, the office of Ameer al Omrah. The disappointed and unprincipled Sadut hastened to inform Nadir, that two crores of rupees were no adequate ransom for the empire of Hindustan; that he himself, who was but an individual, would yield as great a sum; that Nizam al Mulk, who alone had power to offer any formidable resistance, ought to be secured; and that Nadir might then make the wealth of the capital and empire his own. A new and dazzling prospect was spread before the eyes of the ravager. Mohammed Shah, and Nizam al Mulk, were recalled to the Persian camp; when Nadir marched to Delhi, the gates of which were opened to receive him.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is the story told by the writers of Hindustan; and no doubt, various intrigues were at work to influence the decision of Nadir Shah, but it is little likely that he would have withdrawn, without laying Delhi under contribution.



suspected to have concealed. A heavy contribution was demanded of the city, and exacted with cruel severity ; many laid violent hands upon themselves to escape the horrid treatment to which they beheld others exposed. Famine pervaded the city ; and pestilential diseases ensued. Seldom has a more dreadful calamity fallen upon any portion of the human race, than that in which the visit of Nadir Shah involved the capital of Hindustan. Yet a native and contemporary historian informs us, such is the facility with which men accommodate themselves to their lot, "that the inhabitants of Delhi, at least the debauched, who were by far the most numerous part, regretted the departure of the Persians ; and to this day, (*says he*), the excesses of their soldiery are topics of humour in the looser conversation of all ranks, and form the comic parts of the drolls or players. The people of Hindustan at this time regarded only personal safety and personal gratification. Misery was disregarded by those who escaped it ; and man, centered wholly in himself, felt not for his kind. This selfishness, destructive of public and private virtue, was universal in Hindustan at the invasion of Nadir Shah ; nor have the people become more virtuous since, consequently not more happy, nor more independant."<sup>1</sup>

Nadir having ordered, as the terms of peace, that all the provinces on the west side of the Indus, Kabul, Tatta, and part of Multan, should be detached from the dominions of the Mogul, and added to his own, restored Mohammed to the exercise of his degraded sovereignty ; and, bestowing upon him and his courtiers some good advice, began, on the 14th of April, 1739, his march from Delhi, of which he had been in possession for thirty-seven days.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Aurungzeb's Successors, by Scott, p. 214.

<sup>2</sup> The most valuable of the details respecting the invasion of Nadir are furnished us by Golam Husein, (Seer Mutakhareen, i. 325—344.) Scott as usual, gives chiefly an abridgement of the Seer Mutakhareen, but here, enriched with some particulars from the known historians of Nadir. An interesting account of the march of the Persian army back, and its operations in Bucharla, and Kularlam, to which Nadir immediately proceeded, is given us by an eye-witness, Khojeh Abdulkurreem, Kashmieran of distinction, who accompanied him from Hindustan, and whose narrative has been translated for us by Mr. Gladwin. Khojeh Abdulkurreem differs from Scott, in the day of the conqueror's departure from Delhi, which he makes the 4th of May. Memoirs of Khojeh Abdulkurreem, p. 1. A curious letter of Nadir Shah himself, giving an account to his son of his march towards Delhi, of the battle, and of his in-





BOOK III. compensation for the territory which he had governed, he  
 received the soultary, or military and judicial authority  
 of Sichind, a district in the upper part of the province of  
 1747. Delhi.<sup>1</sup>

In the second year after this imperial expedition, happened the invasion of Ahmed Abdallee, a man destined to be the founder of a formidable empire in the contiguous provinces of Persia and Hindustan. He was an Afghan chief of the tribe of Abdal, inhabiting a district of the mountains of Gaur, near the city of Herat. When yet very young he was taken prisoner by Nadir Shah, and was for some time one of the slaves of the presence; till, attracting the attention of his master, he was raised to the office of Yessaval, or mace-bearer. He was by degrees promoted to a considerable rank in the army, and accompanied Nadir in his invasion of India. Nadir Shah was massacred in his tent, not far from Meshed, on the 8th of June, 1747. Ahmed Abdallee had acquired so great an ascendancy among the troops, that upon this event several commanders and their followers joined his standard; and he drew off towards his own country. He fell in with and seized a convoy of treasure, which was proceeding to the camp. This enabled him to engage in his pay a still larger body of his countrymen. He proclaimed himself king of the Afghans: and took the title of Doordowran, or pearl of the age, which being corrupted into Doorancee, gave one of their names to himself and his Abdallees.<sup>2</sup> He marched towards Kandahar, which submitted to his arms; and next proceeded to Kabul. The inhabitants had resisted the proposal of the governor to purchase tranquillity by the payment of a contribution, but they deserted him on the approach of danger; and this province also fell into the hands of the Afghan. The governor of Lahore sent him a proposal, offering to betray his trust, and become the servant of Ahmed, on condition of being appointed his Vizir; and though he repented of his engagement and came to blows, his troops made a feeble

<sup>1</sup> See Mutakhareen (ill. 20-26); Memoirs of Khojeh Abdulkurreem, (p. 183-185). Scott gives a very short and unsatisfactory abridgement of the passage in the See Mutakhareen; Aurungzeb's Successors, p. 219.-M.

A more detailed account is given in Hamilton's History of the Rohilla Afghans.—W.

<sup>2</sup> Memoirs of Khojeh Abdulkurreem, p. 204.

resistance; and Lahore was added to the dominions of the conqueror. He now directed his ambitious thoughts to the capital of Hindustan, with the feeble government of which he was not unacquainted. A large army, under the Emperor's eldest son, the Vizir, and other distinguished chiefs, advanced as far as the Sutlej to repel him; but he passed them artfully, and plundered the rich city of Sirhind, where the heavy baggage of the prince was deposited. The imperialists made haste to overtake him; and after several days of skirmishing, the Vizir was killed by a cannon ball in his tent. The brittle materials of an Indian army were nearly broken asunder by this event; the Rajpoots, under their princes, "stretched," says the historian, "the feet of trepidation on the boundless plain of despondency, and marched back to their homes." However, the remaining chiefs, and among the rest the sons of the late Vizir, exerted themselves with constancy and judgment; and on the following day a still more disastrous accident took place in the camp of the Abdallees. A magazine of rockets and ammunition which had been taken at Sirhind accidentally exploded, and killing a great number of people, shed through the army confusion and dismay. Ahmed, no longer willing to risk an engagement, drew off his troops, and marched unmolested to Kabul.<sup>1</sup>

The Emperor, who only survived a sufficient time to receive intelligence of this joyful event, expired in the thirtieth year of his reign, and forty-ninth of his age; his constitution exhausted by the use of opium.<sup>2</sup>

Ahmed Shah, his eldest son, succeeded him without opposition. The great character and power of Nizam al Mulk removed all competition for the vizirat, but he excused himself on account of his years, and actually died, about a month afterwards, in the hundred and fourth year

<sup>1</sup> See Matalib' ezen (iii. 28-52); *Memoirs of Khichib Abdulkurreem*, p. 145, 223-27. <sup>2</sup> Life of Ahmed Shah, king of the Abdallees, who are also called Durazees, from the custom of wearing a pearl in one of their ears, translated from the Persian by Henry Vanشتart, published in Gladwin's Asiatic Miscellany.

<sup>3</sup> The *Seer Matalib'ezen* is the great authority for this reign; Mr. Scott giving little more than an abridgement of the narrative in that work. Some curious facts are contained in the memoirs of Khichib Abdulkurreem. Frazer's *Nastar Shah*; and the history of that ferocious conqueror, translated into French by Dr. William Jones, are to be consulted for the details on the Persian side. In Frazer, there is an abridgement of the Mogul history, from Aurangzeb to Mohammed Shah, which is given in a still more abridged form by Holwell in his "Interesting Historical Events." Frazer's materials were imperfect.

BOOK III. of his age, leaving his government of the Deccan to be  
 PART IV. seized by his second son Nizir Jung, whose good for-  
 1749-50. tune it was to be present on the spot. After the refusal  
 of the Nizam, the vizirat was bestowed upon Sufider  
 Jung, the Viceroy of Oude, for whom it was originally  
 intended.

The Rohillas and Abdallees Afghans gave occasion to the most remarkable transactions of the reign of Ahmed Shah. Ali Mohammed, though removed from Rohileund to Sirhind, found means to return upon the invasion of the Abdallees, and being joined by the Afghans, great numbers of whom had still remained in the country, he regained possession, and expelled the imperial governor, much about the time of the death of Mohammed Shah. He enjoyed not his prosperity long; but, dying of a cancer in his back, left discord and contention in his family. This circumstance encouraged the governor of Oude, who was now Vizir, and commanded the remaining resources of the state, to form the design of relieving himself from the dread of an aspiring neighbour, and of increasing his power and dominion by the country which that neighbour possessed. The district of Furrukabad was governed by an Afghan of the Bungush tribe. This man the Vizir endeavoured to make his instrument in the destruction of the Rohillas. But the Bungush chieftain lost his life in the contest. The Vizir was not less greedy of the country of his Bungush friend, than he was of that of his Rohilla antagonist. The family of the Bungush chieftain, perceiving the designs of the Vizir, formed a confederacy with the neighbouring Afghans. The Vizir was defeated in a great battle; after which the Afghans proceeded in two bodies, one to Allahabad, where they plundered the city and besieged the citadel; the other to Lucknow, which they expected to surprise. The Vizir, now trembling for his own possessions, could think of nothing better than the wretched resource of calling in the Mahrattas to his aid. They fell upon the country with their usual rapidity; took the Afghans in a great measure by surprise; and compelled them, after much slaughter, to take shelter in the neighbouring hills. This done, the Mahrattas had no inclination to depart. They took up their quarters during the rainy season in the country which they had cleared; and the Vizir was

fain to assign them a large portion of it in the name of a BOOK III.  
reward for their service. The Afghans, as a welcome CHAP. IV.  
counterpoise, were allowed to re-occupy the remainder. 1749-50.  
These events occurred before the end of the year 1750.

In 1749, Ahmed Abdallee marched from Kabul, and advanced as far as Lahore. Meer Munnoo, the eldest son of the late Vizir, had been appointed Governor of Multan, and of as much of the other provinces of Upper India, as could be recovered from the Persians or Afghans. Being unprepared for adequate resistance, he offered to purchase the retreat of the Dooranees by assigning to him the revenues of four districts ; with which Ahmed, for the present, thought proper to content himself.<sup>1</sup> In two years he repeated his visit ; when Meer Munnoo, after some months of vigorous resistance, was betrayed by one of his generals, and defeated. The Dooranee Shah was not incapable of generosity ; he soothed the vanquished leader by obliging expressions, and appointed him his deputy in the two provinces of Multan and Lahore, which were now finally severed from the dominion of the Moguls. A messenger was sent to Delhi to demand even a formal cession of the conquered territory ; and, though Suffder Jung was summoned from his government, with a view to resist the Afghans, the favourite eunuch, jealous of the honour which he might acquire by recovering those important provinces, persuaded the emperor to ratify the cession before he arrived. About the same time an expedition was undertaken against one of the nations of Rajpoots, who had seized, with a disputable title, upon certain districts in Ajmere. The war was ill conducted, and ended in disgrace.

A youth now appeared on the stage, who was destined to play a conspicuous part in the closing scenes of the Mogul sovereignty. This was the only son of Ghazee ad Din Khan, the eldest son of Nizam al Mulk. Upon the death of Nazir Jung in the Deccan, Ghazee ad Din, his elder brother, solicited the Viceroyalty of that important country for himself ; and taking with him the Mahratta army, which had been in the pay of the Vizir, marched unmolested to Aurungabad. At this place he died only a few days after

<sup>1</sup> Seer Mutakhreen (iii. 79). Mr. Scott speaks of a vigorous resistance on the part of the Governor (p. 225) ; but Golam Hussein says, there was no fighting ; and so does Kojeh Abdulkurreem (p. 236).



months, both parties were glad to negotiate. Sussder Jung BOOK III.  
gave up his pretended Prince, and was allowed to retire to CHAP. IV.  
his government, but was deprived of the Vizirat, which —————  
was bestowed upon Intizam ad Dowlah, son of the late 1753.  
Vizir Kummur ad Din Khan.

The Jaat Raja, Sooraje Mul, had given sufficient umbrage  
by his support of the rebellious Vizir ; but, during the



to Delhi. The wretched Aulumgeer, having no means of resistance, opened to him the gates of the capital ; and affected to receive him as a royal guest. For some weeks, Delhi was subject to all the enormities which are practised by a barbarian soldiery on a prostrate foe. To gratify more fully the rapacity of the invader, Umad al Mulk offered to go in person to raise contributions in the Dooab, or country between the Jumna and Ganges ; while the Dooranee Shah was to march against the country of the Jaat Raja Sooraje Mul. He had reduced some fortresses, and was employed in besieging the citadel of Agra, when a plague broke out in his camp. Upon this he formed the resolution of returning immediately to his own country, without even waiting for the return of the Vizir. An interview, as he passed Delhi, again took place between him and Aulumgeer. The fallen Mogul entreated the invader of his country, not to leave him in the hands of his overbearing Vizir. Nujeeb ad Dowlah, a chief of Rohillas, who had lately acted a conspicuous part in the imperial service, was, at the request of the Emperor, appointed Ameer al Omrah ; and to him the Dooranee recommended the protection of his master.

The Vizir, upon the retreat of the Abdallees engaged in his party Ahmed Khan, the Bungush chief of Furukhabad, whose father had lost his life in the contest with the Rohillas. To him and his Afghans he joined an army of Mahrattas, under Ragonaut Rao and Holkar. With this force he marched to Delhi. The Emperor and Nujeeb ad Dowlah shut the gates of the city ; but after a siege of forty-five days, the Emperor was obliged to submit ; while Nujeeb ad Dowlah, by bribing the Mahrattas, obtained the means of escaping to his own district in Rohilcund ; and his office of Ameer al Omrah was bestowed upon Ahmed Khan. Alee Gohur, the eldest son of Aulumgeer, was in the vicinity of Delhi, supporting himself with a small body of cavalry in some districts which he had in Jaghire. The Vizir made his father recall him ; and the Prince repaired to Delhi, but refused to enter the citadel, where he might easily be confined. He was, accordingly, besieged in his palace ; but a few of his followers cut a passage for him through the troops of the Vizir, and he made his escape to Nujeeb ad Dowlah, with whom, and

BOOK III.  
CHAP. IV.

1756.

BOOK III. introduce itself from the other side of the globe, and to  
CHAP. IV. acquire by rapid strides a more complete ascendant over  
 that extensive region than any single government had  
 ever attained.  
 1760.

Ahmed Shah was not only roused by the loss of his two provinces, and the disgrace imprinted on his arms, but he was invited by the chiefs and people of Hindustan, groaning under the depredations of the Mahrattas, to march to their succour, and become their king. The Mahrattas, flying before him, evacuated the two provinces at his approach ; and assembled together from all quarters in the neighbourhood of Delhi. The Dooranee army was joined by the chiefs of Rohilcund, Nujeeb al Dowlah, Saadoollah Khan, Hafiz Rahmut, and Loondee Khan. For some days the Dooranees hovered round the Mahratta camp ; when the Mahrattas, who were distressed for provisions, came out and offered battle. The army, consisting of 80,000 veteran cavalry,<sup>1</sup> was almost wholly destroyed ; and Dut-tahjee Sindia, their general, was among the slain. A detachment of horse sent against another body of Mahrattas, who were marauding under Holkar in the neighbourhood of Secundra, surprised them so completely that Holkar fled naked, with a handful of followers ; and the rest, with the exception of a few prisoners and fugitives, were all put to the sword.

During the rainy season, while the Dooranee Shah was quartered at Secundra, the news of this disaster and disgrace excited the Mahrattas to the greatest exertions. A vast army collected ; and Suddashee Rao, commonly called Bhao,<sup>2</sup> the nephew of Ballejee, the Peshwa, and other chiefs of the greatest note, assuming the command, the Mahrattas marched to gratify the resentments, and fulfil the unbounded hopes of the nation. Having been joined by Sooraje Mul, the Jaat, and Umad al Mulk, the Vizir, they arrived at the Jumna before it was sufficiently fallen to permit either the Mahrattas on the other side, or the Dooranees, to cross. In the meantime they marched to Delhi, of which, after some resistance, they took possession ; plundered it with their usual rapacity, tearing away even

<sup>1</sup> Holkar and Sindha, had not 80,000 men in the whole, and these were acting in separate divisions. Hist. of the Mahrattas, II. 136.—W.

<sup>2</sup> The term means "brother," but is applied to a cousin, and Sadashee was so termed, because he was the cousin of the Peshwa.—W.

the gold and silver ornaments of the palace ; proclaimed BOOK III.  
Sultan Jewan Bukht, the son of Alee Gohur, Emperor ; CHAP. IV.  
and named Sujah ad Dowlah, Nabob of Oude, his Vizir.

1760.

Impatient at intelligence of these and some other transactions, Ahmed Shah swam the Jumna, still deemed impassable, with his whole army. This daring adventure, and the remembrance of the late disaster, shook the courage of the Mahrattas ; and they intrenched their camp on a plain near Paniput. The Dooranee, having surrounded their position with parties of troops, to prevent the passage of supplies, contented himself for some days with skirmishing. At last he tried an assault ; when the Rohilla infantry of Nujeeb ad Dowlah forced their way into the Mahratta works, and Bulwant Rao with other chiefs was killed ; but night put an end to the conflict. Meanwhile scarcity prevailed, and filth accumulated, in the Mahratta camp. The vigilance of Ahmed intercepted their convoys. In a little time famine and pestilence raged. A battle became the only resource. The Abdallees restrained his troops till the Mahrattas had advanced a considerable way from their works ; when he rushed upon them with so much rapidity, as left them hardly any time for using their cannon. The Bhao was killed early in the action ; confusion soon pervaded the army ; and a dreadful carnage ensued. The field was floated with blood. Twenty-two thousand men and women were taken prisoners. Of those who escaped from the field of battle, the greater part were butchered by the people of the country, who had suffered from their depredations. Of an army of 140,000 horse, commanded by the most celebrated generals of the nation, only three chiefs of any rank, and a mere residue of the troops, found their way to the Deccan.<sup>1</sup> The Dooranee Shah made but little use of this mighty victory. After remaining a few months at Delhi, he recognised Alee Gohur, as Emperor, by the title of Shah Aulum the Second : and intrusting Nujeeb ad Dowlah with the superintendence of affairs, till his master should return from Bengal, he marched back to his capital of Kabul in the

<sup>1</sup> This account of the famous battle of Paniput; the consequences of which were so momentous to the future fortunes of India, is not altogether correct : one great cause of the defeat of the Mahrattas, was, the defection of Suraj Mall and the Jants. See account of the battle by an eye-witness. As. Researches, vol. iii. p. 91, and Duff's Mahratta History, ii. 144.—W.

**BOOK III.** a name, ranked high among his contemporaries in all the quarters of the globe, Ebn Sina, or Avicenna, who wrote above one hundred volumes, and died 1036, at the early age of fifty-eight.

The Moguls were not perfectly barbarous when they advanced upon the countries of the West. It is sufficiently proved that they had the use of letters; they had an alphabet of their own, in no degree corresponding with the troublesome characters of the Chinese, but as ingenious and simple as that of the Romans.<sup>1</sup> The degree in which they approximated to the mental capacity of the most enlightened nations of Asia, is abundantly proved, not only by that power of combined action which enabled them to effect their conquests, but by the skill with which they regulated the government of China, as well as that of Persia and Transoxiana, to which they subsequently advanced. It appears not that the government in those several countries was more skilfully conducted in any hands, than in those of the immediate successors of Jangiz. The Moguls, at the time of their conquests, were so fully prepared for a new step in civilization, that they assimilated themselves with wonderful rapidity, both in China and Persia, to the more cultivated people among whom they had arrived; and, in a short time, were to be distinguished from them rather by slight shades of character and manners, than any difference in point of civilization.<sup>2</sup> In their new acquisitions in Persia and Transoxiana, they were celebrated for prosecuting the sciences with great ardour; and, in particular, for having laid astronomy, geography, and the mathematical sciences, under great obligations. In the city of Samareland, the seat of government of one of

the sons of Jaugiz and his successors, "the academy of BOOK III. sciences," to use the words of the writer in the Universal History; "was one of the most eminent to be found among the Mohammedans, who resorted thither to study from all the neighbouring countries." Abulfeda mentions two decisive marks of a considerable degree of civilization. In his time the streets were paved, and water was conveyed into the city by leaden pipes. The silk-paper made here was the most beautiful in Asia ; and in great request over all the East.<sup>1</sup>

Mohammed, of Ghizni, the founder of the first Mohammedan dynasty in Hindustan was the most accomplished Prince in Asia. His court contained an assemblage of learned men. The greatest poet of Asia wrote in his capital, and was fostered by his bounty. He and his nobles adorned Ghizni with an architecture which rendered it the finest city in the East. He there erected a university, which he richly endowed, and made it one of the principal seats of learning in that quarter of the globe.<sup>2</sup>

Under Mohammed of Ghizni, the great sovereign of Persia,<sup>3</sup> who combined in his service all the finest spirits that Persian civilization could produce, the Hindus could not be said to be overrun, or held in subjection by a people less civilized than themselves. As little could this be said under the descendants of Mohammed, who, though inferior to him in personal qualities, were themselves formed, and served by men who were formed, under the full influence of Persian arts and knowledge. The same was undoubtedly the case with the princes of the Gaurian dynasty. They, and the leaders by whom they were principally served, were, in respect of training and knowledge, in reality Persians. It will not be denied, that the Moguls, the last of the Mohammedan dynasties of Hindustan, had remained a sufficient time in Transoxiana and Persia, to have acquired all the civilization of these two countries, long

<sup>1</sup> For these facts, the reader will find the original authors faithfully quoted and extracted, in the Universal History, II. 352, 354; IV. 309, 323; V. 123. Modern Part, 8vo. Ed. In exploring the Persian and Arabian Authorities, the authors of the Universal History are not the worst of our guides.

<sup>2</sup> Vide supra, p. 178.

<sup>3</sup> Mahmud never was sovereign of Persia. That country was divided among the houses of Saman and Dilem, from the former of whom Mahmud obtained some advantages, but not such as to 'justify the designation here assigned to him.—W.

**BOOK III** Under the Mohammedan despots of the East, nearly as much as in republics themselves, all men are treated as equal. There is no noble, no privileged class. Legally, there is no hereditary property, as the king is the heir of all his subjects. The only thing which creates distinction is office, or the exercise of some portion of the powers of government. For office, there is no monopolizing class. Men from the very lowest ranks in life are daily rising to the highest commands, where each of them is honoured in proportion, not to the opulence of his father, but the qualities which he himself displays. Though here there is wanting that barrier to the unlimited progress of the power of the king which was found in the hereditary nobility of Europe, yet the situation of Spain, of Poland, and, in a greater or less degree, of every country in Europe, shows that the body of the people is not much benefited when the unlimited power of oppressing them, instead of being confined to the hands of the king and his servants, is shared between him and a body of nobles.

**II. THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT.**—In the simplicity of Oriental despotism there is not much room for diversity of form. Yet there are circumstances which distinguish to a considerable extent the state of government among the Mohammedans from that among the Hindus, and all of them to the advantage of the former.

Under the Mohammedan sovereigns there was a regular distribution of the functions of government to certain fixed and regular officers; that of the Vizir, that of the Bukshee, Ameer al Omrah, and so on. Under the Hindu sovereigns, there appears to have been a confusion of all things together in one heterogeneous mass<sup>1</sup>. The sovereign governed by a sort of council, composed of Brahmins, who exercised the powers of government according to no pre-established plan, but according as each, by intrigue or by reputation, could obtain an ascendancy among the rest.<sup>2</sup>

The natural and common order of things, in this situation, BOOK III.  
was, that some one individual acquired a predominant influence, and employed the rest as merely his instruments. —  
CHAR. V.

This man became, by way of distinction, *the minister*—Peshwa, as he is called by the Mahrattas. Where the council of Brahmins is not a regular establishment, the sovereign chooses a minister, that is, a depositary of all his power, who disposes of it in portions regulated by no rule, and by not much of established custom and habit.

To the abuse of the power which is placed in the hand of absolute sovereigns there is no limit, except from three circumstances: 1. Religion; 2. Insurrection; 3. Manners.

1. When it is said that *Religion* opposes the will of the sovereign, it is meant that the ministers of religion oppose it—the priests; for, as a political engine, religion, without somebody to stand up for it, is a dead letter. Now the priests can only oppose the will of the sovereign when, by their influence over the minds of men, they have acquired a great portion of power, a power which the king is afraid to provoke. Again, this power of the priests will, or will not, be applied in a way to protect the people from the abuse of the sovereign power, according as the sovereign allies himself with it, or does not ally himself with it. If he allies himself with it, that is to say, if he associates the power of the priests with his own, and admits them to a due share of the benefits which he pursues, the power of the priests is employed, not in checking, but in supporting him in the abuse of his power. Now, so completely was the power of the priests associated with that of the sovereign under the Hindu system of government, that the power of the sovereign was almost wholly transferred into the hands of the priests. As the benefit of abusing the sovereign power was shared so largely with themselves, they had no motive to check, but every motive to support.<sup>1</sup> To misgovernment, accordingly, under Hindu

supplied his want of information, by ideas borrowed from what he knew in other parts of India. Besides, the Nepaulians, as well as the Mahrattas, were in a situation to borrow from the Mohammedans.—W.

<sup>1</sup> The mistake is here repeated of confounding Brahmins with priests. The alliance of church and state is much more intimate with the Mohammedans where the sovereign should properly even perform the office of public preacher in the temples; he has also the whole patronage of the Moollas in his hands. With the Hindus the Raja can perform no sacred offices, nor can he exercise any control over the Brahmanical caste.—W.

## HISTORY OF BRITISH INDIA.

BOOK III. than any people, above the rank of savages, of whom we  
CHAP. V. have any record. The practical good sense of any people  
is not without its influence upon the mode of employing  
the powers of government, and upon the minds of some  
at least of the princes that wield them. Before the Mo-  
guls proceeded to Hindustan, we have a proof, in the  
Institutes of the conqueror Timur,<sup>1</sup> of the degree of bene-  
ficient contrivance, with which he laid down the plan of  
his administration.

"I appointed a Suddur, a man of holiness, and of illus-  
trious dignity, to watch over the conduct of the faithful ;  
that he might regulate the manners of the times, and  
appoint superiors in holy offices ; and establish in every  
city, and in every town, a judge of penetration, and a  
doctor learned in the law, and a supervisor of the markets,  
of the weights, and the measures.

"And I established a judge for the army, and a judge  
for the subjects : and I sent into every province and  
kingdom, an instructor in the law, to deter the faithful  
from those things which are forbidden, and to lead them  
in the truth.

"And I ordained that in every town, and in every city,  
a mosque, and a school, and a monastery, and an alms-  
house for the poor and the indigent, and an hospital for  
the sick and infirm, should be founded, and that a phy-  
sician should be appointed to attend the hospital ; and  
that in every city a government-house, and a court for  
the administration of justice should be built ; and that  
superintendents should be appointed to watch over the  
cultivated lands, and over the husbandmen.

"And I commanded that they should build places of  
worship, and monasteries in every city ; and that they  
should erect structures for the reception of travellers on  
the high roads, and that they should make bridges across  
the rivers.

"And I commanded that the ruined bridges should be  
repaired ; and that bridges should be constructed over the  
rivulets, and over the rivers ; and that on the roads, at  
the distance of one stage from each other, Kauruwansarai

<sup>1</sup> The Persian version was translated by Major Davy ; and edited, with a  
preface and other additions, by Mr. White, the Arabic Professor at Oxford, in  
1783.

should be erected ; and that guards and watchmen should be stationed on the road, and that in every Kauruwansarai people should be appointed to reside ; and that the watching and guarding of the roads should appertain unto them ; and that those guards should be answerable for whatever should be stolen on the roads from the unwary traveller.

BOOK III.  
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“ And I ordered that the Suddur and the Judge should, from time to time, lay before me all the ecclesiastical affairs of my empire ; and I appointed a Judge in equity, that he might transmit unto me all civil matters of litigation, that came to pass amongst my troops and my subjects.”

Here is a selection of four of the most important objects of government, in making a provision for which, the first care and attention of the Mogul sovereign are employed : the administration of justice, the instruction of the people, the facilitation of intercourse, and his own knowledge of all that is transacted in his name. That the provision for these objects was very incomplete, we have sufficient assurance ; but some progress was made in the art and science of government, when they were pointed out as primary objects of regard ; still more, when something considerable was really done for their attainment.

Of the twelve maxims of his government, the following is a selection :

“ Persons of wisdom, and deliberation, and vigilance, and circumspection, and aged men endowed with knowledge and foresight, I admitted to my private counsels ; and I associated with them, and I reaped benefit, and acquired experience from their conversation.

“ The soldier and the subject I regarded with the same eye. And such was the discipline which I established amongst my troops and my subjects, that the one was never injured or oppressed by the other.

“ From amongst the wise and the prudent, who merited trust and confidence, who were worthy of being consulted on the affairs of government, and to whose care I might submit the secret concerns of my empire, I selected a certain number, whom I constituted the repositories of my secrets : and my weighty and hidden transactions, and my secret thoughts and intentions, I delivered over to them.

**BOOK III.** governor, whose authority is inferior to the power of the **CHAP. V.** scourge, is unworthy to govern.

"I ordained that the revenues and the taxes should be collected in such a manner as might not be productive of ruin to the subject, or of depopulation to the country."

Of the produce of the fertile and cultivated lands, one third was taken for the government; and this was the principal, and almost the only source of the revenue.

"And I ordained, whoever undertook the cultivation of waste lands, or built an aqueduct, or made a canal, or planted a grove, or restored to culture a deserted district, that in the first year nothing should be taken from him; and that in the second year, whatever the subject voluntarily offered should be received; and that in the third year the duties should be collected according to the regulation.

"And I ordained, that if the rich and the powerful should oppress the poorer subject, and injure or destroy his property, an equivalent for damage sustained should be levied on the rich oppressor, and be delivered to the injured person, that he might be restored to his former estate.

"And I ordained, that in every country three Vizzeers should be stationed. The *first*, for the subject—to keep a regular account of the taxes and the duties received, and what sums, and to what amount, were paid in by the subject, and under what denomination, and on what account, and to preserve an exact statement of the whole. The *second*, for the soldier—to take account of the sums paid to the troops, and of the sums remaining due unto them." The *third*—was for certain miscellaneous services, too tedious to be specified.

These details are sufficient to show, that among the Moguls, even at their first irruption into Hindustan, the arts of government were considerably advanced; and that the Hindus had much to gain by a change of masters. In the hands of some of the most eminent of the Mogul princes, the Emperor Akbar, for instance, the powers of government were distributed, and employed with a skill which would not disgrace a period of considerable knowledge and refinement.

Though in a pure despotism much depended on the qualities of the sovereign, yet when a good plan of administration was once fully introduced, a portion of its excellence always remained, for a time ; and had a strong tendency to become perpetual.

BOOK III.

CHAR. V.

III. THE LAWS.—The laws of the Hindus, we have already seen, are such as could not originate in any other than one of the weakest conditions of the human intellect; and, of all the forms of law known to the human species, they exhibit one the least capable of producing the benefits which it is the end and the only good consequence of law, to ensure.<sup>1</sup>

The Mohammedan law, as introduced into India by its Mogul conquerors, is defective indeed, as compared with any very high standard of excellence; but compare it with the standard of any existing system, with the Roman law for instance, or the law of England, and you will find its inferiority not so remarkable, as those who are familiar with these systems, and led by the sound of vulgar applause, are in the habit of believing. In the following view of the most remarkable particulars in the state of Mohammedan law, a reference to the system of English law is peculiarly instructive, and even necessary; as it is by the English system that the Mohammedan has been superseded.

1. The civil, or non-penal branch of law, lays down the rights which, for the good of the species, should be constituted in behalf of the individual; in other words, prescribes the power which the individual, for the good of the species, ought exclusively to possess, over persons, and over things.

The particular powers or privileges which it is expedient to constitute rights, are, in the great points, so distinctly

<sup>1</sup> It has been shown that the view taken of the laws of the Hindus is exceedingly imperfect; and that which follows of Mohammedan law resting upon the *Muladaya* alone is not much more comprehensive, but being influenced by a different feeling it is more candid. During the flourishing periods of Mohammedan rule in Asia, the law was very diligently cultivated by a number of ingenious writers, some of whom were not improbably acquainted with the compilations of Justinian, which will account for its analogy in classification to Roman law. In this respect, it may be allowed to have an advantage over Hindu law, but in the civil branch, in the laws of contracts and inheritance, it is not so exact or complete as the latter. The penal law has the advantage also of being framed without regard to persons, but its spirit of barbarous retaliation is unknown to the Hindu code.—W.

**BOOK III.** and strongly indicated by common experience, that there  
**CHAP. V.** is a very general agreement about them among nations in  
 ————— all the stages of civilization. Nations differ chiefly in the  
 mode of securing those rights.

One instrument, without which they cannot be secured, is strict and accurate definition. In affording strict and accurate definitions of the rights of the individual, the three systems of law, Roman, English, and Mohammedan, are not very far from being on a level. Completeness, in point of definition, it seems, is a perfection in the state of law, which it requires a very advanced state of civilisation to bestow. At first, experience has provided no record of all the variety of material cases for which a provision is necessary. Afterwards, the human mind is not sufficiently clear and skilful to classify accurately a multitude of particulars ; and without accurate classification, useful definitions and rules can never be framed. Lastly (and that is the state in which the more civilized nations of Europe have long been placed) custom and habit acquire a dominion which it is not easy to break ; and the professors of law possess an interest in its imperfections, which prompts them to make exertions, and a power, which enables them for a long time to make successful exertions, to defeat all endeavours for its improvement.

Until very late, there was no civil code, that is to say, there was no description, good or bad, in a permanent set of words, of almost any of the rights belonging to individuals, in any country in Europe. The whole was traditional, the whole was oral ; there was hardly any legislative writing. Of course, in the greater number of cases, nobody knew exactly what was right. The judge, having no fixed definition for his guidance, made for himself, on each particular occasion, a definition to suit that particular occasion. But these numerous definitions, made by numerous judges on numerous occasions, were more or less different one from another. All the approximation to accuracy that was attained, or that was attainable, consisted in this, that the routine of decision fixed a certain sphere, within which the variation of the arbitrary definitions which the judges on each occasion made for themselves was, with a certain force, confined ; as he, by whom a wider range was taken for injustice than what was usually taken, would expose himself



BOOK III. the case in which *Things* are considered as the subject of right, two circumstances principally require to be ascertained; first, the powers which are included in each right; secondly, the events which cause, or give origin to the existence of a right. These points are determined upon the same principles, and nearly in the same way, by the Mohammedan, as by European legislation. Every where law has been formed, not by a previous survey and arrangement of the matters which it belongs to a system of law to include; but by the continual aggregation of one individual case to another, as they occurred for decision. The only classifications, therefore, which have ever been attempted, are those of the cases which occur for decision; the states of circumstancess which most frequently give occasion to disputes about rights. Now, these states of circumstances are the more common of the events which constitute change of ownership, or affect the transfer of property: of these events, one set, which obviously enough fall into a class, are those of bargain and sale, or the exchange of one article of value for another; this constitutes a large chapter in the Mohammedan code. Another important class of such events are those which relate to inheritance: a third class are those which relate to wills; a fourth, those which relate to engagements either to pay a sum of money, or to perform a service. There are other inferior titles, of which those relating to deposits and to bail are the most considerable: and under these heads is the matter of civil law distributed in the Mohammedan code.

It will not be denied that this distribution very closely resembles that which is made of the same subject in the legal systems of Europe. It will hardly be denied that this combination of heads as completely includes the subject, or all the cases of dispute respecting ownership or right, as that combination of heads which we find in the codes of the West. To show the exact degree in which the Mohammedan system falls short of the Christian system, but exceeds the Hindu, in making clear and certain the rights which it means to create and uphold, would require a development far too long and intricate for the present occasion. From the delineation of the great lines to which the present aim has been confined, it will appear, that a much higher strain of intelligence runs through the whole, than

is to be found in the puerilities, and the worse than puerilities, of the Hindus.

BOOK III .  
CHAP. V.

2. So much for the comparison of Mohammedan law with that of Hindus and Europeans, in regard to the civil branch, or the constitution of rights. In the penal branch, besides a selection of the acts which shall be accounted offences, in which selection there is great uniformity all over the globe, two things are necessary, an exact definition of the act which the law constitutes an offence, and an exact specification of the punishment which it adopts as the means of preventing that offence.

On the penal branch of law, the Mohammedan, like the Roman system, is exceedingly scanty. In the Institutes of Justinian, for example, three short titles or chapters, out of eighteen, in the last and shortest of four books, is all that falls to the share of this half of the field of law; and the whole is brought in under the subordinate title of "Obligations arising from delinquency." The arbitrary will of the judge (a wretched substitute) was left to supply the place of law. The same disproportion, (and it is one of the most remarkable points of inferiority in the ancient Roman as compared with the modern systems of jurisprudence,) is observable in the Mohammedan Books of law: the portion which relates to the penal is very small, in comparison with that which relates to the non-penal branch of the subject.



be included in one comprehensive law. This would have two admirable effects. The laws would be less voluminous; hence less obscure, and difficult to administer. In the second place, being founded upon the generic and specific differences, they would include all individual cases without exception; whereas in so far as they are founded upon individual distinctions, they may rise to the number of millions, and leave as many cases (no individual case resembling another) without an appropriate provision.

3. Besides the laws which mark out rights and punishments, are a set of laws on which the execution of the former branches altogether depends. These are the laws which constitute the system of procedure, or the round of operations through which the judicial services — inquiry, sentence, and enforcement — are rendered.

In this part of the field of legislation there is a most remarkable difference between the Indian and European systems. In the European system, the steps of procedure are multiplied to a great number, and regulated by a correspondent multiplicity of rules. In the Mohammedan (and in this the Mohammedan and the Hindu systems concur) the mode of procedure is simple, and not much regulated by any positive rules; the Judge being left to conduct the judicial inquiry in the mode which appears to him most conducive to its end, and falling, of course, into the natural and obvious train of operations, recommended to every individual by ordinary good sense, when he has any private inquiry, analogous to the judicial, to perform. The parties are summoned to appear before him: they state, in their order, the circumstances of the case, subject to examination of all sorts, for the elucidation of the facts: the evidence which they have to adduce, whether of testimony or of things, is received: when all the evidence is before the Judge, he balances the weight of that which affirms with the weight of that which denies the point in dispute; and according as either preponderates, decision is pronounced.

In this department, the advantage is all on the side of the Indian systems. The inconvenience to which the Indian mode of procedure is liable, consists in the arbitrary power intrusted to the Judge, which he may employ either negligently, or partially and corruptly. Two things may





BOOK III. of collection ; which a revenue chiefly derived from a pro-  
 vider. v. portion of the gross produce of the land rendered excessively  
 intricate and complex ; an intimate acquaintance with the  
 language and manners of the people was indispensably re-  
 quired ; and that acquaintance Hindoo alone posseid.  
 There is nothing to hinder the Hindoos, as any other people,  
 from being well qualified to be used as instruments in a  
 business, in which they might have been utterly incapable  
 of being the principals. The methods devised, with con-  
 siderable skill, under the Emperor Akbar, for preventing  
 the two great abuses incident to the machinery of collec-  
 tion ; the oppression of the people ; and embezzlement of  
 the king's revenue ; appear to have preserved their virtue,  
 not much impaired, during the time when any vigour re-  
 mained in the Mogul government ; and to have become al-  
 together neglected, only when each province, as the empire  
 fell to pieces, became an independent petty state ; and  
 when the feeble and necessities sovereign of each petty  
 state was unable to contend either with his own vices, or  
 those of his agents.<sup>1</sup>

V. RELIGION.—Under this head very few words are re-  
 quired ; because the superiority of the Mohammedans, in  
 respect of religion, is beyond all dispute. To the compo-  
 sition of the Koran was brought an acquaintance with the  
 Jewish and Christian scriptures ; by which the writer, not-  
 withstanding his mental rudeness, appears to have greatly  
 profited ; and assigning, as we are disposed to assign, very  
 little value to the lofty expressions regarding the Divine  
 perfections, in the Koran, as well as to those in the Vedas,  
 we find the absurdities in the Koran, by which those lofty  
 ideas are contradicted, inconsiderable both in number and

<sup>1</sup> "The moderation of the tribute imposed by all Mohammedan conquerors, and the simplicity of their method of collecting it, accounts for the surprising facility with which they retained possession of their conquests. The form of their government was despotic ; but in fact it was not oppressive to the mass of the conquered people. In general they introduced no change, but in the army, and in the name of the sovereign." Francis, Plan for a Settlement of the Revenues of Bengal, par. 9. "The gentiles (Hindoos) are better contented to live under the Mogul's laws than under Pagan princes, for the Mogul taxes them gently, and every one knows what he must pay ; but the Pagan kings or princes tax at discretion, making their own avarice the standard of equity : besides, there were formerly many small Rajas, that used upon frivolous occasions to pick quarrels with one another, and before they could be made friends again, their subjects were forced to open both their veins and pores to gratify ambition or folly." Hamilton's New Account of the East Indies, II. 26.



**BOOK III.** civilized ancestors ; who, though more rough, were not  
**CHAP. V.** more gross ; though less supple in behaviour, were still  
more susceptible of increased civilisation, than a people in  
the state of the Hindus.

In the still more important qualities, which constitute what we call the moral character, the Hindu, as we have already seen, ranks very low ; and the Mohammedan is little, if at all, above him. The same insincerity, mendacity, and perfidy ; the same indifference to the feelings of others ; the same prostitution and venality,<sup>1</sup> are conspicuous in both. The Mohammedans are profuse, when possessed of wealth, and devoted to pleasure ; the Hindus are almost always penurious and ascetic.<sup>2</sup>

**VII. THE ARTS.** The comparison has been so fully exhibited between the Persians and Hindus, in respect to progress, in the arts, in that chapter of the preceding book, in which the arts of the Hindus have been described ; and it is so well known, that the Mohammedan conquerors

<sup>1</sup> Sir Thomas Roe, speaking of even the Mogul Emperor and his court, says, " Experience had taught me that there was no faith among these barbarians." Journal in Churchill's Voyages, I. 799. Contrasting the opposition he met with, when he had not, and the obsequiousness when he had something to give, he says, " This made me sensible of the poor spirits of those people. Asaph Khan [the minister] was become so much our friend, in hopes to buy some trifles, that he would have betrayed his own son to serve us, and was my humble servant." Ibid. Sir Thomas Roe said it was better not to send ambassadors to the Mogul's court, but to employ the money in bribing. " Half my charge," said he, " shall corrupt all this court to be your slaves." Letter to the E. I. Company, Ibid. p. 809.

<sup>2</sup> In this comparison of manners, a variety of assertions is made, wholly unfounded. The distinction between the Moslem and the unbeliever, has everywhere rendered the former inclined to be brutal in his treatment of the latter, to an extent much beyond the ordinary effect of the distinction of caste. This was a matter of importance in India, where nine-tenths of the people were unbelievers, and were constant food for the insolence and cruelty of the faithful. The Mohammedan doctrine of equality was not incompatible with slavery to a very great extent, with all its debasing effects upon the manners of the slave-owner. Although not unknown to the Hindu system, it is in so modified a form, and is so little in harmony with Hindu manners, that it scarcely exists in most parts of India. The Hindus are not restricted to a vegetable diet any more than the Mohammedans, whilst it is not true that the Mohammedans abstain from spirituous liquors as rigidly as the Hindus. There are no such confessions in Hindu writings as in Baber's honest accounts of his drinking bouts, no such panegyrics upon wine, as in the poetry of Hafiz. With regard to deportment, there is not much difference between a well-bred Mohammedan and Hindu ; but, generally speaking, there is more sincerity in the latter. The morals of the Mohammedans are much lower than those of the Hindus, from their stronger propensity to personal gratification ascribable partly to the spirit of their religion, and partly to greater physical vigour. The only superiority possessed by the Mohammedan over the Hindu is energy ; they are, in general, a more resolute and enterprising race, retaining some of the physical qualities of their Turkish or Persian origin. This applies only to the better classes of them. The lower orders of Indian Mohammedans, are in general inferior to the lower orders of the Hindus.—W.















## NOTE B., p. 351.

This superior intellectual advancement of the Mohammedan nations, so confidently asserted, as a fact, is no fact at all, nor has any proof of it been adduced. The analogies upon which it is based, have been shown to be inaccurate, and the comparison involves a total disregard of time and circumstance. The question formerly discussed, was not what the Arabs, Persians, Turks, and Hindus now are, but what they were. Admitting that the three former have attained since the eighth century a level with the Hindus, it may most confidently be denied that the Arabs before the time of the Khalifat, or the Turks before that of Jangiz, were on a par with Hindu civilization. It would be equally consistent to assert, that because the progress made by the inhabitants of Great Britain, has left the Hindus behind; therefore the Britons in the days of Cæsar were more civilized than the people of India. Whatever, therefore, may have been the case in modern times, the nations of Western Asia had not at an earlier period a stage of civilization higher than the other inhabitants of the East. In truth the fact is disputable, even in all times. Mohammedan civilization is one, whatever be the nation, the same literature and science are cultivated from the Hellespont to the Oxus, the same laws and the same religion prevail. The literature is in some degree original, but with the exception of the historical portion, is much less agreeable to European taste than that of the Hindus: the science is borrowed, not only from the Greeks, but from the Hindus, and it is not true that the disciple has surpassed his masters. The magnificence of the Khaliphs rose suddenly and soon disappeared; their bounty created, and their example continued, a race of men of letters, who justly reflect great celebrity and credit upon the Mohammedan name; but literature was always confined to the court and the camp, it never enlightened the people. Nor were they brought within reach of civilization by the nature of their governments, the prevailing form of which has always been a military despotism, depending for its administration wholly on the character of the reigning prince. Neither now nor before the birth of Mohammed, were Arabs, Turks, or Persians, elevated above the Hindus by their political condition. They have had an advantage subsequently in their religion, the principles of which approached nearer to truth than Hindu idolatry. In practice, however, it is quite as full of unmeaning and trifling observances, and in its ferocious intolerance contributes less to humanize its professors, than the universal toleration of Hindu polytheism.—W.

